

Tourism NORTHERN ROCKIES

HIKING & MOTORIZED TRAIL GUIDE



Northern
British Columbia
REGION


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We proudly welcome you to our world, and to the spectacular northern environment that we call home – Fort Nelson and the Northern Rockies. Prepare to experience your own adventures within the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality (NRRM). Encounter the places, activities and

history that Fort Nelson, the Alaska Highway, the Northern Rockies and the Muskwa-Kechika wilderness have to offer. Make us your adventure and your destination!

For more detailed information on the places, activities or businesses in Fort Nelson and the Northern Rockies visit the tourism website at www.TourismNorthernRockies.ca

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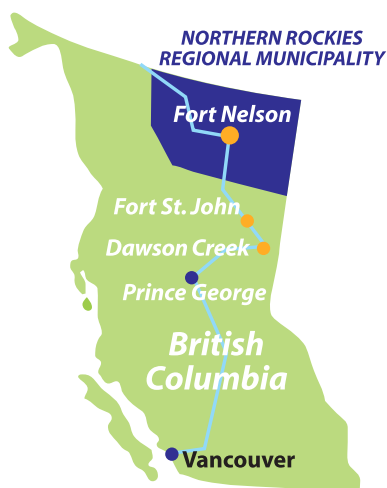
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Welcome to the Northern Rockies – your destination for hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, ATV and snowmobiling and much more. From lowland marshes and the northern boreal forest, to majestic mountains and rushing rivers, our trails lead you to see and experience it all.

The intention of this guide is to give basic information needed to enjoy a variety of trails found in our region. Most trails lead off the world-famous Alaska Highway, which is our main street through the region, so the trailheads are easy to find and accessible year round.



Fort Nelson, the largest community in the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality, and as a point of service to the visitor, offers all the amenities essential to any hiking trip. It has quality accommodations for the beginning or end of your trip and stores and services to get you ready and supply you up to head out on the trail. We can be found at Mile 300 of the Alaska Highway in the northeast corner of British Columbia and directly east of the northern portion of the Rocky Mountains.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT SAFETY

In the space available it is impossible to communicate all the safety considerations that are part of any hiking experience in the Northern Rockies but equipment, wildlife, weather conditions, and outdoor survival should be quickly discussed.

Equipment

The following equipment is the minimum you should consider taking with you for a day trip into the Northern Rockies. All of this will easily fit into a daypack and shouldn't weigh more than 10 pounds.

- **Adequate Clothing and Footwear** – Like any mountain environment, the Northern Rockies has extremely variable weather conditions, possibly changing several times a day. Warm layers, such as fleece, wool, or polypropylene that retain heat when wet, and dry quickly, are best. A waterproof layer is also essential as afternoon summer thundershowers are common in the mountains. Cotton (jeans, sweatpants) should be avoided as it doesn't retain heat when wet and takes time to dry. Sturdy, comfortable, broken-in, and waterproof footwear is also suggested.
- **First Aid Kit** – A simple first aid kit with bandages, gauze, medical tape, moleskin, scissors, and pain relievers along with personal emergency items (ie: bee sting kits) should always be carried for those smaller problems that could make your trip out of the wilderness difficult or painful.
- **Emergency/Space Blanket** – This is a very small, compact, light and versatile



piece of equipment that should be in everyone's daypack. It can be wrapped around you to retain heat on a cold day, used to shelter you from the rain, or to help build a quick emergency shelter, and its reflective properties make it very visible if someone is searching for you.

- **Survival Kit** – This is a must when unexpected situations arise and you may need to spend more time out in the wilderness than you expected. This kit should at least include, but is definitely not limited to: waterproof matches, fire starter of some sort, a candle, pocket knife, a sawing utensil, utility cord, fishing hook and line and water purification tablets. Many people also include bug spray for sanity purposes and a tea bag and OXO cubes for some nutritional value. All of this could be packed inside a tin can that can be used for boiling water.
- **Water** – Carry a bottle with at least a one litre capacity and refill it as often as you find a source. Water in this area is clean but all water should be purified before drinking. Purification tablets, filtering or boiling are suitable means of making sure your water does not contain parasites such as *Giardia lamblia* (beaver fever) that is found throughout British Columbia.
- **Bear Spray** – A can of bear spray is an easy, lightweight and effective tool to have when in bear country. Make sure your spray is accessible at all times and can be quickly deployed. Be aware that bear spray cannot be taken on a commercial flight or sent through the mail so you may have to purchase it when arriving in the region and leave it behind when you go. Bear bangers (pen bangers) and other noise making devices are also suitable but Bear Spray is considered the most effective deterrent.

Wildlife

The Northern Rockies is an amazing place to view wildlife. We are often called the "Serengeti of the North" due to the abundance and diversity of wildlife species our region supports. Large numbers of ungulates, fur bearers, and birds can be seen on a fairly regular basis. Of course, with this abundance comes considerations while travelling through this region.

- Please pull off to the side of the highway or into a pullout while watching animals that have ventured out onto the road. The Alaska Highway is busy with both tourist vehicles and commercial traffic throughout the year, so please be courteous and safe and pull off so people can pass you easily. Do not get out of your vehicle to take a picture or feed them.
- All animals have their own personality, and are very unpredictable – be aware that they may not like you in their personal space especially if they have young. And human food is not compatible with their natural diets and

creates many problems if they become habituated to getting free and easy food.

- Bears – Whole books have been written on this subject, as there are many things a person can do to avoid bear encounters and much they should do if they come face to face with a bear. In reality, bear encounters are few and far between, as bears are more likely to know you are there before you see them and will avoid you as best they can.

o Avoidance

- This can be as simple as making noise as you travel through the wilderness, especially in areas of dense undergrowth or poor visibility. Sing, talk loudly, yell, or carry a noise maker (ie: whistle, air horn). Be aware that sound is drowned out near rushing water and a bear may not be able to hear you coming. Travelling in larger groups usually does the trick, as they are often a great source of noise.
- If you come across a dead animal or can smell something rotten, leave the area immediately back the way you came. It could be a bear's food cache; he will assume you are there to take it away from him.
- Do not select a campsite that shows bear sign – tree scratchings, dug up roots, or scat. Keep your campsite clean and free of food aromas. Cook away from your sleeping area and hang your food in a tree, high enough that a bear cannot reach it standing on its back legs – at least 15 feet up and 4 feet from the tree trunk itself.

o **Types** – The following table lists characteristics for both types of bears found in the Northern Rockies for easy identification. This becomes necessary when choosing your reactions in case of an encounter.

Grizzly Bear	Black Bear
Dished / concave facial profile	Straight line facial profile
Small, short, rounded ears	Larger, erect, pointed ears
Pronounced hump over shoulders	No hump
Front claws 7-10 cm	Small front claws under 4 cm
Hind foot track has pointed heel	Wedge in instep of hind foot
Colour is not an indicator of species!!! Both types of bears can be black, blond, cinnamon, or brown.	

o Encounters

- It may happen that you encounter a bear on the trail. More often this is due to surprising the bear that wasn't able to hear, see, or smell you. If you do encounter a bear:
 - Don't overreact. Stop and think about your circumstances.
 - Leave the area if the bear is not aware of you.



- If you can't leave, make the bear aware of your presence by talking calmly and waving your arms.
- Move slowly away and don't run unless you are absolutely sure you can reach safety.
- If you are carrying bear spray:
 - Have it easily accessible – you may only have a few seconds to react. Use it only when the bear is very close – the stated shooting range is 5 metres but that is only in ideal, non-windy conditions.
 - Do not spray into the wind, it will end up in your face, incapacitate you.
- If the bear acts aggressively: Try to determine if it is acting defensively or is predatory.
- If it is acting defensively (it has cubs, or you startled it and contact is imminent) and is a Grizzly Bear, lie face down on the ground with your hands clamped onto the back of your neck. This will protect your face, stomach, and neck as well as lower your centre of gravity so it is more difficult for the bear to roll you over.
- If it is a **Black Bear** and is defensive, fight back – kick it, punch it, or stab it if you are carrying a straight knife and aim for its face or nose.
- If either bear is acting like it is predatory (stalking behaviour or intently interested in you), try to intimidate it by acting aggressively yourself – jump up and down, make yourself bigger by spreading your arms or standing on something, or yell at it. It should get the feeling that you are something to be reckoned with.

Weather Conditions – A little should be said about travelling in the north for those who may not be familiar with our unique weather conditions.

- The hiking season is relatively short as far north as we are located in British Columbia. Generally, the snow will start to accumulate for the winter in mid October and will not be completely melted until mid-to-late May. That is not saying it couldn't snow any month of the year in the mountains but, generally, hiking is snow free from June through September.
- Rivers, creeks and lakes will most often be ice free by the beginning of June but hikers should be aware that late June / early July is also the time of highest water levels. It is common on hotter days that a creek will be flowing normally in the morning and by afternoon be

overflowing its banks due to melt higher up in the mountains.

- Afternoon thundershowers are common on warm summer days so don't be fooled into not taking rain gear by a clear hot morning. Often they don't last long but they sure get you wet quickly.
- We are blessed in the north with long daylight hours in the summer, making it good for those long days on the trail. On the longest day the sun sets at 10:30 pm and rises again at 4 am but dusk and dawn are very long leaving only about an hour around 1 am that is somewhat dark.

Outdoor Survival

Everyone that goes out on a trail anywhere in the province should be aware of a few basic survival skills for those unpredictable occasions where you will be out in the wilderness longer than you expected or overnight. This becomes more important in places like the Northern Rockies where there are vast tracks of land and few people in it.

- **Trip plan** – The first thing anyone going out into the wilderness should do is let someone know where they are going and their expected return time. This could be as easy as telling a friend or family member or filling out a trip plan and leaving it with someone reliable who will contact the appropriate authorities if you have not returned by the stated time.
- **Lost** – if the unexpected happens and you are lost while hiking in the region there are a few things that you can do to make your time in the bush better and facilitate being found.



They are in this order:

- o **Shelter** – Any sort of protection from the elements, generally a windstop or rain/snow protection, can be made from different materials but is often made of downed trees and spruce bows. Naturally occurring shelters such as caves, rock overhangs, or toppled trees are good protection but are less visible to the searcher than unnatural ones. The easiest shelter to make is a lean-to (shown here) with spruce bows or an emergency blanket as a backing blocking the prevailing winds.
- o **Fire** – The next most important part of survival is a good fire. Fire will provide you with warmth, comfort, a drying mechanism and is very visible to the searcher day and night. Always collect three times more wood than you think you will use for the night so that there is no need to search for it in the dark or leave its warmth.
- o **Signal** – Always be prepared to signal for help at any time. A set of three of anything (fires, brightly coloured items, etc), seen from the air, usually in a triangle, is a standard call for help. Signalling with a mirror is the most effective method of being spotted by an aircraft. Most compasses nowadays come equipped with a mirror.
- o **Water** – The human body can only survive without water for



three days so make this a priority. If there are no lakes, streams, ponds, or snow around, the best way to collect water is to rely on early morning dew from underbrush, or to collect rainwater. Remember to disinfect all water before drinking it and do not eat anything if you do not have water, as it is integral to the digestion process.

o **Food** – This is almost the least important factor when considering short term survival as it is possible to survive for several weeks without food but it does provide the body with the energy you will need to perform the aforementioned survival tasks. If you choose to forage for food here are some considerations:

- o Avoid mushrooms unless you are certain they are edible
- o Avoid plants with milky sap
- o Avoid white berries and those clustered at the end of a branch
- o Avoid plants that cause tingling or are bitter when touched on the tongue.

When more substantial sources of food are required, the easiest small game to collect in this region is grouse or ptarmigan. They are slow and don't travel far once flushed. They can be widely found and can be caught by hand with minimal energy usage. Cook thoroughly before eating.

- **Hypothermia** – This is a drop in the core body temperature to a level at which normal muscular and mental functions are impaired. This can happen very easily and is not purely caused by temperatures below zero. Being damp in a cool situation can also be a factor. Hypothermia is the most frequent cause of death in the mountains so a quick outline is appropriate here:

o **Symptoms – Mild**

- o Shivering
- o Deterioration in mental functions
- o Stiff and clumsy fingers

o **Symptoms – Severe**

- o "Umbles": stumbles, mumbles, fumbles, grumbles
- o Apathy
- o Slurred speech, confusion
- o Shivering stops
- o Incoherence, disorientation, and irrationality

o **Prevention**

- Insulate your body from the ground or cold surfaces with a foam pad, your pack, or extra gear.
- Insulate your body from radiating out your heat. 50% of body heat can be lost from your head so make sure you always have a hat.
- Get out of the wind so that the warmth next to your skin is not lost to the air currents and replaced by cool air.
- Try not to over perspire in your clothing and create dampness next to your skin. If you do, remove your wet clothing once you have stopped.

Emergency Contacts

- Police/RCMP:..... (250) 774-2777
- Fire: (250) 774-2222
- Forest Fire: 1-800-663-5555
- Ambulance: (250) 774-2344
- Hospital: (250) 774-8100
- Conservation Officer Service RAPP Hotline: 1-877-952-7277
- Search and Rescue: There is a local chapter of trained Search and Rescue personnel. They are deployed on the authority of the RCMP so contact the police to report a missing person or when a backcountry/wilderness rescue needs to be performed.

MAP READING

- The maps used in this guide were created from Trim II and National Topographic System (NTS) data sources.
- Coordinates are supplied for each point in the WGS 84 projection.
- All trail maps are oriented northward throughout the guide and as all the maps use the same type of background map, and were created in the same method.
- All trail maps are oriented northward throughout the guide and as all the maps use the same type of background map, and were created in the same method, a single legend is included on page 13.

The trail information included in this guide was collected using a Global Positioning System (GPS) and overlaid onto the map so that the location of the trail itself would be as precise as possible. Icons are used to show various waypoints on each map. The symbols used correspond to the legend on the following page.

ACTIVITY SYMBOLS

These symbols are used throughout the book to let the reader know what types of activities are allowed or best suited to each trail. They are:



Wildlife Viewing Area

Often a good place to see wildlife in its natural habitat.



All Terrain Vehicles Allowed

Motor vehicles under 500 kgs permitted on this trail.



Good Fishing Area

Refer to BC Fishing regulations for quotas & seasonality.



Good Birdwatching Opportunities

Often a small pond with ducks and shorebirds.



Trails Suitable for Hiking

Trail marking can range from yellow diamonds, rock cairns, or just a worn path on the ground from previous hikers.



Undeveloped Campsites Available

Campsites that cannot be accessed by vehicle and provide no amenities.



Area suitable for Horseback Riding

Please contact BC Parks for a day pass to ride within a park.



Trail Suitable for Mountain Biking

There are no technical mountain biking trails with built features (jumps or ramps) in this area.



Cross Country Skiing Trail

Groomed runs listed only.



Viewing Area

Generally, when there is a panoramic view or long view of a mountain range or river valley.



Snowmobiles Allowed

Wilderness motorized routes that are designated for snowmobile riding. More trails are maintained by the local snowmobile club. For more information: (250) 774-7760



Dogs on Leash

Dogs are not permitted to run freely and must be on a leash at all times.

DIFFICULTY RATINGS

The difficulty ratings found on every trail description are the standard ratings previously used by the Ministry of Forests when they were operating trails throughout the province. The rating system goes from 1 (easy) to 5 (difficult). A brief explanation of the characteristics of each category follows:

1 – Easy	Can be classified as either a short hike/walk or a longer trail with little or no elevation gain, and being clearly marked. Can generally be done in as little as an hour.
2 – Moderately Easy	Often a short trail with some, but minimal, elevation gain or a longer trail with little to no elevation gain. Can also be an easy trail but with unsure footing such as over rocky ground (alluvial fans). Will generally take from 2-3 hours return.
3 – Moderate	A medium length trail with sections of elevation gain and loss or long gradual elevation gain throughout until reaching the destination or on the return trip. Generally these trails will take from 4-5 hours return.
4 – Moderately Difficult	Can be a medium length trail with continual elevation gain to viewpoints or mountain tops or a very long trail with sections of elevation gain and loss. Return time to complete will generally be from 5-7 hours.
5 – Difficult	A long day trip trail that will exceed 8 hours return or a multiple day trail. Hikers are expected to be self-sufficient and fairly experienced to complete these hikes.

REGIONAL MAP

The map on the following page shows the general areas referred to in the Table of Contents for the upcoming trail descriptions.

LEGEND

 Picnic Table

 Point of Interest

 Parking

 Viewpoint

 Trail Head

 Bridge

 Intersection

 Shelter

 Info Sign

 Camping

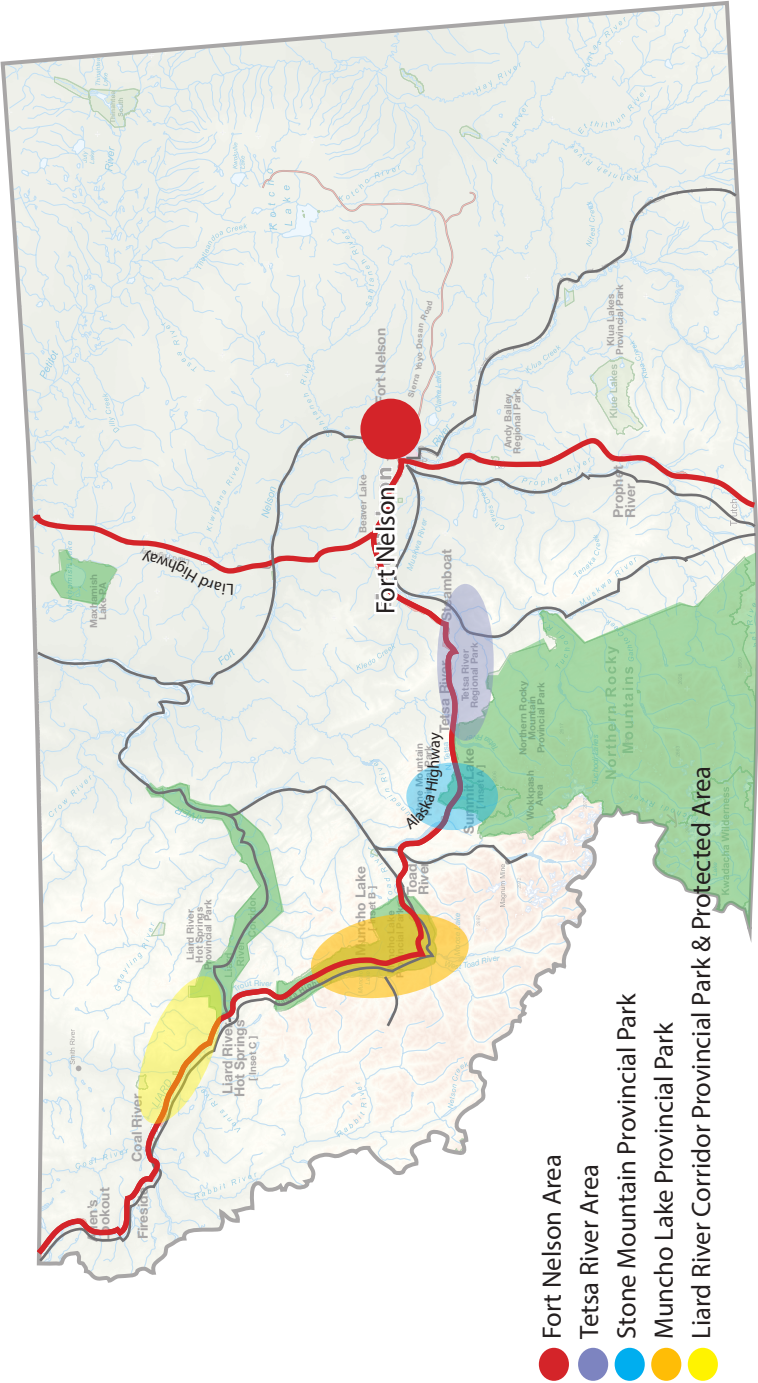
TRAIL SLOPE

 Easy
 Moderate
 Steep
 Motorized Trail
 Roads
 River

ELEVATION

 <1,200 m
 1,200 - 1,400 m
 1,400 - 1,600 m
 1,600 - 1,800 m
 1,800 - 2,000 m
 > 2,000 m
 Lakes

Northern Rockies Regional Municipality



Trail Descriptions

(Trail maps precede written descriptions)



Fort Nelson Community Trails



Fort Nelson Community Trail



- Length:** 4.9 kilometres from Lagoon Road
Access to Simpson Trail Trailhead.
- Difficulty:** 1 – Easy
The trail is 3m wide, and asphalt for the duration - ideal for all fitness levels, accessibility levels, and families with strollers and small children. The connections with other recreational and residential areas enable access from several locations. The trail is designated as non-motorized.
- Location:** Trailheads at Simpson Trail, end of Mountainview Drive, corner of Gairdner Cres., Airport Road, multiple points along Tamarack Cres., and Lagoon Road (behind Water Treatment Plant).
- Approach:** Most commonly, when parking is required use either access points below:
- Simpson Trail:** Turn off the Alaska Highway at the Recreation Centre and head up Simpson Trail, through the intersection at Mountainview Drive. Trailhead is marked by a large kiosk on the right hand side. Park at trailhead.
- Tamarack South:** From Alaska Highway, turn onto 42nd St at Dan's Pub. Take an immediate right onto Lagoon Road (a dirt road running parallel to the Alaska Highway). Park at trailhead located at Millenium Park, or park farther down towards Water Treatment Plant.
- Trail Description:** The trail is paved the duration, with varying areas abutting residential areas as well



Fun Run 2011

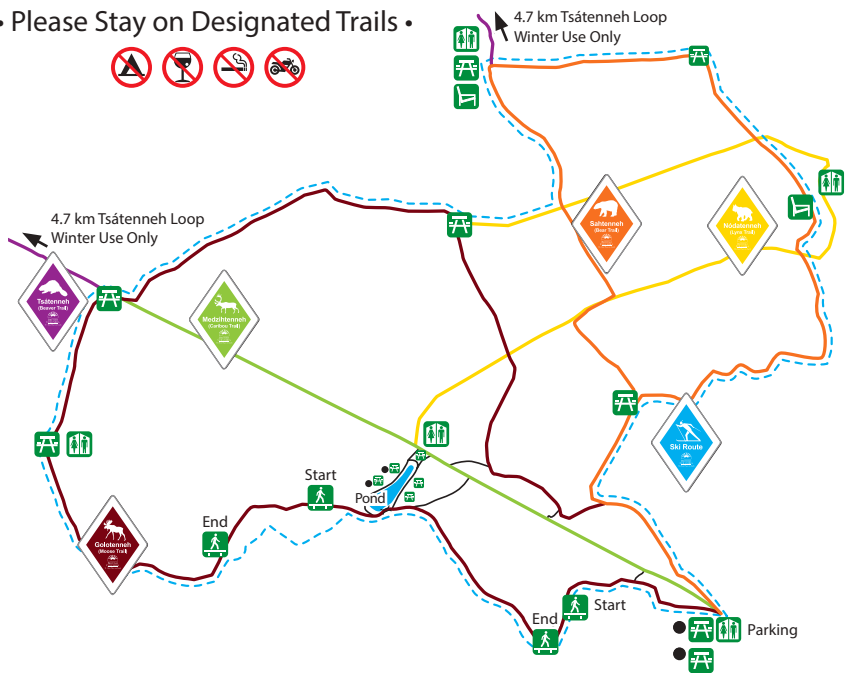
as forested areas. Switchbacks near the Gairdner Cres. Kiosk create a moderately challenging incline for joggers. The trail is cleared of snow throughout the winter, so wear appropriate footwear for traction.

Special Notes: The trail was designed for non-motorized use only, although recreational motorists cross the trail in some locations and use routes that parallel the trail in places. Please remain aware of other users.



Fort Nelson Demonstration Forest

- Please Stay on Designated Trails •



LEGEND



Boardwalk



Picnic Area



Fire Ring



Outhouse



Bench

COMMUNITY FOREST TRAILS



Golotenneh Moose Trail 3.4 km



Medzihtenneh Caribou Trail 1.3 km



Sahtenneh Bear Trail 2.9 km



Nódatenneh Lynx Trail 2.2 km



Tsátenneh Beaver Trail 4.7 km
Entire route not shown. Approx. 8.1 km round trip when combined with the Blue Ski Trail Route



Ski Trail 4.5 km
Groomed & maintained by the Fort Nelson Cross Country Ski Club



Connector Trails

Fort Nelson Demonstration Forest



- Length:** **Medzihtenneh Caribou (Green) Trail:** 1.3 km
 Golotenneh Moose (Brown) Trail: 3.4 km
 Sahtenneh Bear (Orange) Trail: 2.9 km
 Nodatenneh Lynx (Yellow) Trail: 2.2 km
- Difficulty:** 1 – Easy
All trails are fairly flat and visitors to the Demonstration Forest can choose their desired distance from a variety of trails.
- Location:** Far West end of Mountainview Drive, Fort Nelson – Mile 300
Alaska Highway
- Approach:** From the Alaska Highway in downtown Fort Nelson, turn north onto Simpson Trail and drive to the top of the hill where you will turn left onto Mountainview Dr. Follow this road to its end where a parking lot and kiosk with a trail map can be found to the right.

TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS:

Medzihtenneh Caribou (Green) Trail: 1.3 km: Starting from the parking lot and kiosk follow the middle trail of the three trailheads. Easily identified by overhead

lighting, the trail is a direct route to enter the Tsatenneh Beaver (Purple) Winter Use Ski Trail. Also the most direct trail to the pond and picnic area surrounding, with outhouses on the right hand side approximately half way down.

Golotenneh Moose (Brown) Trail: 3.4 km: Starting from the parking lot and kiosk, follow the trail left of the three trailheads. Fairly densely forested, and with a boardwalk crossing, the trail will border the edge of the pond, where it continues over a more low-lying area where hikers will find an outhouse and picnic area. Continue ahead as



Photo by: Jack Stevenson

you approach a junction leading straight back to the main gate (Medzihtenneh/Green Trail), and continue until you encounter another junction with picnic table, turning right. Follow the trail ahead, staying to the path designated, and following as path jogs back towards the lit Medzihtenneh/Green Trail. Turn right at final junction to join the Sahtenneh/Orange Trail until you reach the main gathering area and parking lot.

Sahtenneh Bear (Orange) Trail: 2.9 km: From the parking lot and kiosk, follow trail at right of three trailheads. Stay on designated path, taking trail to the right at junction with picnic table. The trail will be fairly densely forested, with the benches and picnic tables appearing along the way. The trail will sharply veer left, and hikers should maintain path to the left at junction to Tsatenneh Beaver (Purple) Trail (winter only). Continue in a straight path at first four-way junction, and take proceed to the right at the next four-way junction. The trail will quickly fork again, and hikers should go left to complete loop. The path will reconvene at the first picnic table of the trail, staying right to return to main gate.

Nodatenneh Lynx (Yellow) Trail: 2.2 km: Follow the Medzihtenneh/Green Trail (middle of three trailheads) from parking lot and kiosk, and just past pond and outhouse, proceed right. Continue on trail through all junctions in trail, looping back once crossing the second portion of the Sahtenneh/Orange Trail. An outhouse is located where trail begins to loop back. Follow trail straight through two more junctions, and at final fork in trail with picnic table, proceed left, joining with the Golotenneh/Brown Trail. Follow Golotenneh/Brown Trail straight through junction, and continue to right as the Sahtenneh/Orange Trail leads hikers back to main kiosk & parking area.

Ski (Blue Dotted Trail): 4.5 km: Groomed



Photo by: Jack Stevenson

Demonstration Forest Trail



Photo by: Jack Stevenson

Demonstration Forest Trail

and maintained regularly throughout the winter by the Cross Country Ski Club, the Ski Trail follows the outermost trails formed by the Sahtenneh/Orange, Nodatenneh/Yellow, and Golotenneh/Brown Trails.

Special Notes: Aside from the trails described here, there are many intersecting and offshoot trails within the forest. Take any of the other trails to vary the length of hike you wish to take.

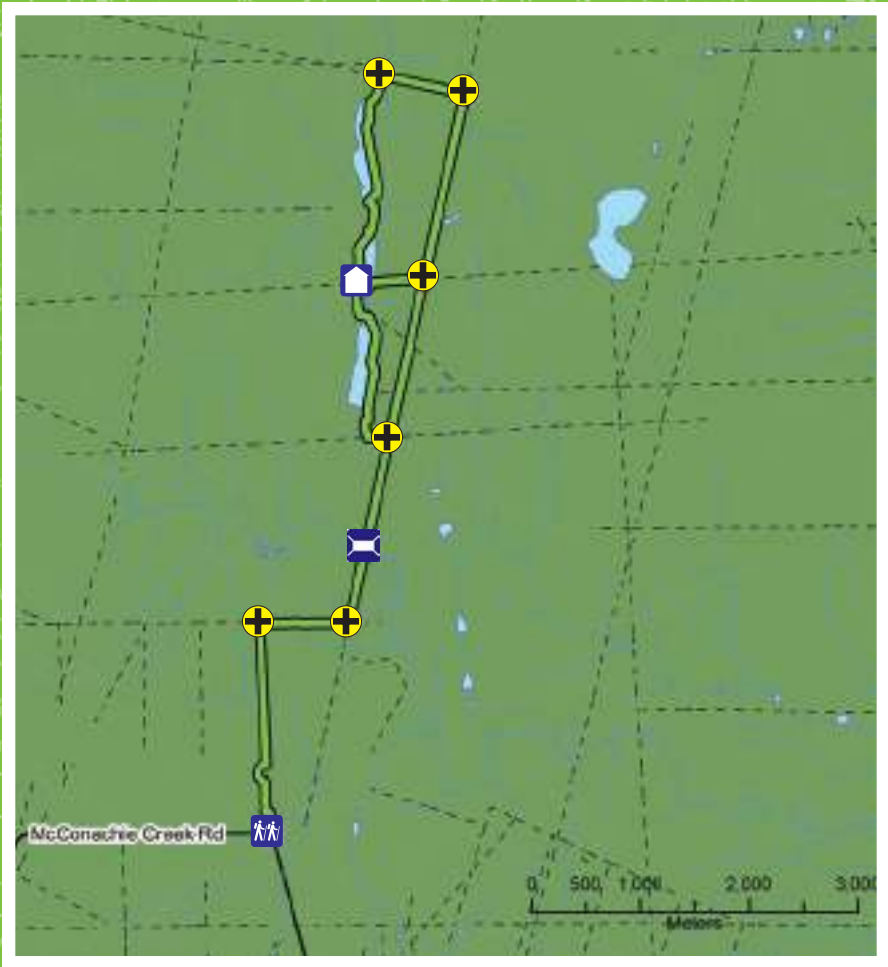
Keep an eye out for wildlife signs along any of the routes. Piliated Woodpecker holes can be seen at the base of many dead or dying trees, old bear claw marks are visible climbing several of the aspen, and deer prints are often seen in some of the moister sections of the trail. Stop and enjoy the interpretive signage along the way for a self-guided silvaculture tour.

If hiking or snowshoeing the ski trails in winter, please stay in centre of trails to preserve groomed runs for skiers. Ensure that litter is placed in receptacles and pet waste is removed with bags provided.



Photo by: Jack Stevenson

Tsimeh Lakes Trails



LONG NAME	LAT	LONG
Trail Head	58° 54' 59.355" N	122° 46' 24.377" W
Intersection	58° 56' 1.409" N	122° 46' 30.787" W
Intersection	58° 56' 1.478" N	122° 45' 39.253" W
Bridge	58° 56' 23.995" N	122° 45' 29.589" W
Intersection	58° 56' 56.525" N	122° 45' 15.347" W
Shelter	58° 57' 42.306" N	122° 45' 33.110" W
Intersection	58° 57' 43.366" N	122° 44' 55.297" W
Intersection	58° 58' 38.507" N	122° 44' 31.288" W
Intersection	58° 58' 43.903" N	122° 45' 19.780" W

Tsimeh Lakes Trails



- Length:** 12.5 kilometres full round trip (8.5 kilometres second lake round trip)
6 kilometres to the shelter
- Difficulty:** 3 - Moderate
Fairly flat throughout, but long with an occasional short steep section.
- Location:** Km 14, McConachie Creek Road, Fort Nelson
- Approach:** From the Alaska Highway in downtown Fort Nelson, turn north onto Simpson Trail (2WD gravel road) following it for 4 kms before making a right onto McConachie Creek Road.

Follow this road for 14 kms until you see a tight corner sign with a red reflector on the post below it. Pull off to the side past the corner and park as far off the road as possible. The trail begins about 10 metres up, on the left hand side of the corner lot's driveway.

Trail Description: Following flagging tape and yellow diamonds for its length, the trail starts out in an easement between two rural properties. As such, you will need to pass through the landowner's fence to access the trail. This is electric so touch only the yellow plastic handle and please make sure the gate is closed immediately after passing through. You will be responsible if his horses escape! **(Note:** The landowner has given permission to use this route, subject to the fact that the gate is always kept closed)

After passing through the fence, the trail you will see is a road leading off to the right, turn here and follow this until the next intersection where you will turn left, this leads you through the farmers field and eventually to the trail (a seismic line) leading back into the trees for a couple hundred metres before taking a sharp right turn. In



Middle Lake of the Tsimeh
Lakes chain

Photo by: Les Grice

most cases, just follow the groomed snowmobile trail.

Continue on until the first intersection where you will turn left and head northeast for the next 2 kms, crossing a bridge over Cridland Creek. At the next intersection turn left again where you will soon find a trail sign to your right leading into the trees and dropping down onto the first lake. Follow the right lake edge to the opposite end where the trail leads off the lake to the left. This will bring you to the second lake where a shelter (with a fire pit and guest book) sits on the left (western) shore.

The most well maintained section of the trail is a round trip back from this point. Climb the hill across the lake from the cabin, leading to a seismic line that parallels the three lakes. Turn right at this intersection and you will soon pass the intersection you took to the first lake.

If you would rather complete the full round trip, the trail continues northwards down the second lake, enters the trees on the right side, then leads down onto the third lake. Once at the far end of the third lake, the groomed and maintained portion of this trail ends, but an old trail and seismic lines do still exist, although fairly grown in. If you choose to continue instead of returning in the direction you came, head out the far end of this lake where you will come to another intersection. Turn right here and proceed to the next intersection, where you will take a right again and start heading southward. This is again the seismic line that parallels the three lakes, so heading southward for 3 kms will get you back to the intersection you took to get into the first lake.

Special Notes: The Fort Nelson Cross Country Ski Club only grooms this trail periodically, starting in January, so be prepared to break trail after large snowfalls. The ability to get into Tsimih Lakes during the summer is different every year depending on how dry of a year it is. The trails are old seismic lines cut through the muskeg and are often wet and difficult to traverse at that time of the year. However, judging from the entries in the guest book in the shelter, hikers have made it that far in the summer months, presumably in very dry years.



Ski trail down a seismic line
Photo by: Les Grice

Teetering Rock Trail



Longname	Lat	Long
Parking	58° 40' 21.241" N	123° 54' 56.020" W
Trail Head	58° 40' 22.116" N	123° 54' 52.389" W
Sign	58° 41' 11.218" N	123° 53' 58.403" W
Viewpoint	58° 42' 16.024" N	123° 54' 47.349" W
Camp	58° 43' 30.626" N	123° 56' 13.177" W
Sign	58° 44' 23.326" N	123° 57' 39.311" W
Viewpoint	58° 44' 43.998" N	123° 58' 46.045" W

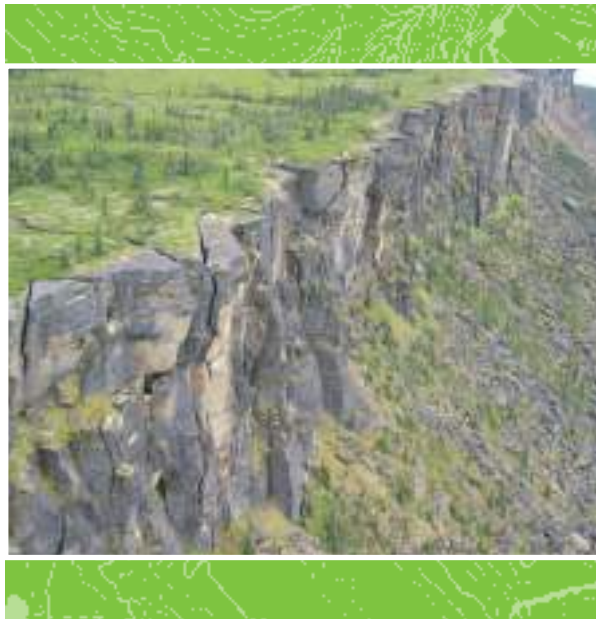
Teetering Rock Trail



- Length:** 23 kilometres round trip
– allow 8 hours return or overnight
- Difficulty:** 5 – Difficult
A fairly long day hike with multiple steep elevation gains on the way to Teetering Rock
- Location:** Mile 345 (km 559) of the Alaska Highway.
- Approach:** Leaving Fort Nelson, head 99 kms northwest along the Alaska Highway and turn right (north) off the road where you see a blue hiking symbol sign. This will be just down the other side of Steamboat Mountain and before reaching the turnoff to Tetsa River Park. Follow the short road to its end where you can park right by the trailhead kiosk, which gives some trail information.

Trail Description: The trail starts out in a deciduous forest where the ground can be fairly wet after rains or just after snowmelt, so waterproof boots are suggested. The trail will then lead out onto an old cutline. Within a kilometre you will veer sharply to the left and reenter the trees and then start the long climb up to the top of the ridge that includes a really steep section with switchbacks.

You will know you've reached the top of this steep part once you see a trail sign with a map on it. Continue along this ridge for a few kilometres passing by a small open meadow where you get a good view of Steamboat Mountain to your right (west), the Alaska Highway below and Teetering Rock ahead of you.



Continuing for a few more kilometres, you will reach a small campsite with an outhouse, fire ring and picnic table. This is a good place to stop for lunch or a place for the night if you want to spend more than one day in here. To continue on from the campsite, you must head down the trail that leads from near the outhouse. Taking the trail that leads directly on from the right side of the picnic table will lead down to a boggy area and dead-end.



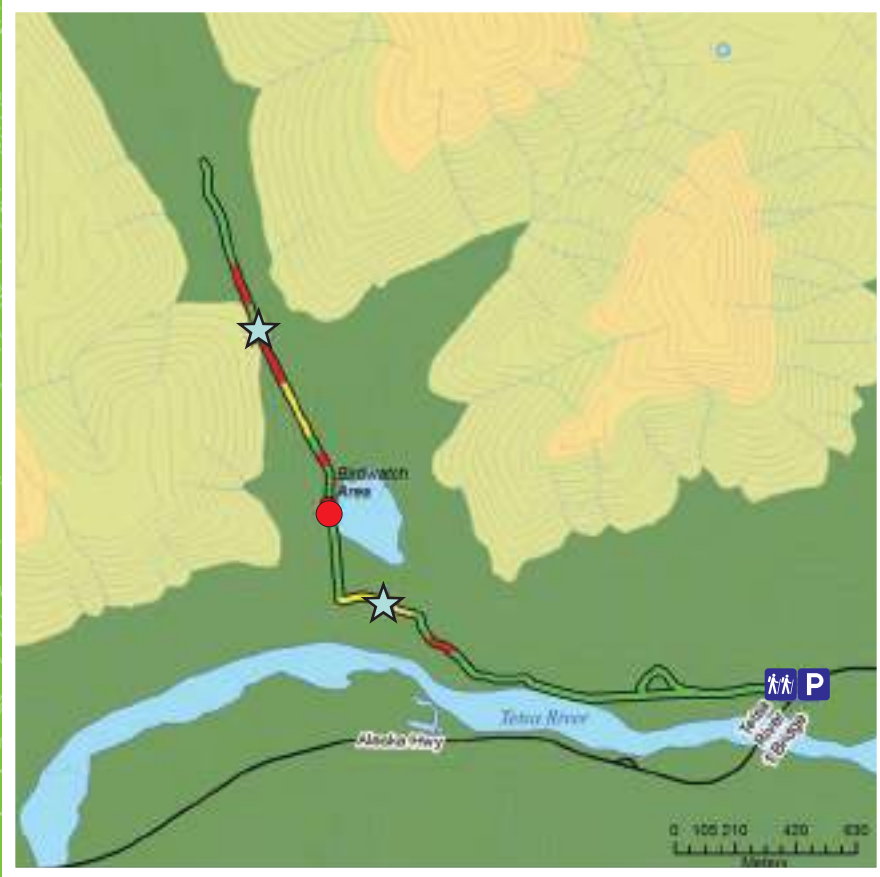
From the campsite, head up onto a ridge where you will have good views off both sides and you will lose and gain small amounts of elevation for a few kilometres. At about kilometre 8.5 and for the next few kilometres, you will come across small rocky fields where the footing is difficult and hikers should be cautious.

Around kilometre 10 you will encounter another trail sign that directs you to climb up the scree slope in front of you. This is a difficult climb as the footing

is quite loose but it is the most direct route up to the next ridge. From the top of this ridge (Mt. Gunnel) the trail is more what you make it at this point. You will see two large rock pillars in front of you – take the most direct route to those for a good 360° view and the best view of your destination – Teetering Rock. Reaching Teetering Rock is a little trickier. You will need to be prepared to do a lot of scrambling over large boulders, sometimes to the size of houses, to reach the base of the rock.

Special Notes: This trail can be done as either a long day hike or as an overnight trip but be aware that there are no readily available sources of water along the trail. In an emergency, and with a good filter, water could be extracted from some of the boggy areas around the campsite but this shouldn't be relied on. The beginning of this trail is a popular place for black bears during the summer so be extra aware when starting and ending the trail. Hikers should also pay close attention when making the return trip to the trailhead. It is easy to lose the trail in spots, as it isn't as well marked going in the reverse direction.

Tetsa #1 Trail



Longname	Lat	Long
Parking	58° 40' 2.731" N	124° 26' 31.727" W
Trail Head	58° 40' 2.622" N	124° 26' 36.432" W
Viewpoint	58° 40' 11.309" N	124° 28' 3.184" W
Birdwatch Area	58° 40' 22.115" N	124° 28' 15.957" W
Viewpoint	58° 40' 41.356" N	124° 28' 31.718" W

Tetsa #1 Trail



- Length:** 4 kilometres round trip - allow 2 hours return
- Difficulty:** 2 – Moderately Easy
A short trail with one elevation gain over a saddle between two hills.
- Location:** Mile 366 (km 589) Alaska Highway
- Approach:** The trailhead can be found at the first crossing of the Tetsa River under the Alaska Highway about 132 kms northwest of Fort Nelson. Just before going over the bridge, you can find a pullout on the left side of the highway where you can park to access the hiking trail. The trail begins across the highway and down the bank.



Trail Description: The trail starts out leading upstream where the trail is marked with yellow tree diamonds. After travelling a few hundred metres the trail will fork twice within a relatively short distance. Take a right at the first fork and a left at the second, taking you out on to a shelf above the river. Just past that you will begin your climb up and over the saddle. Heading up the side of the hill there are good views across the highway of the North Tetsa River valley. The trail will switchback once near the top of the saddle and then flatten out. It will quickly drop down to your destination of a small pond in a picturesque mountain valley.

Special Notes: The pond in behind the saddle is a good place for bird watching, and many duck species can be spotted there until winter freeze. There are also wild strawberries, gooseberries, and raspberries found on the track that climbs over saddle.

The trail does continue past the pond, to the northwest, (dashed line) the Dunedin River valley – primarily a horse trail marked occasionally by blue and pink flagging tape. (This portion not suitable for mountain bikes) The trail crosses the Dunedin River and heads upstream until crossing again and following the Dunedin Trail (see page 31) back to the highway. This is approximately a 12 kilometre loop that can be done in two days with an overnight stop at the second crossing of the Dunedin River.

Dunedin Trail



Longname	Lat	Long
Parking	58° 39' 34.142" N	124° 34' 36.988" W
Trail Head	58° 39' 37.177" N	124° 34' 28.899" W
Campsite	58° 39' 47.056" N	124° 34' 37.815" W
Viewpoint	58° 42' 38.369" N	124° 32' 53.052" W

Dunedin Trail



- Length:** 15 kilometres round trip – allow 8 hours return
- Difficulty:** 3 - Moderate
Starts steep but has more gradual gains and losses of elevation throughout, with most of the elevation gain coming on the return trip.
- Location:** Mile 368 (km 592) of the Alaska Highway
- Approach:** The Dunedin Trail can be found just before entering the eastern boundary of Stone Mountain Provincial Park, 135 kms northwest of Fort Nelson on the Alaska Highway. The trail takes off from the right (north) side of the highway and looks pretty much like any other small gravel road

the first part being an old logging road no longer suitable for motorized vehicles). Look for the trailhead sign to verify you have the right gravel road. Parking for this trail is at a small highway pullout just a little further and off to the left.

Trail Description: The trail begins with a quick elevation gain of about 100 metres in the first kilometre, passes by an old hunting camp then levels out with gradual inclines and declines for the next 2 kms. The trail peaks out at a point where there is a good view of the rolling hills of the Dunedin River valley further to the North. From there the trail starts a mild, but long descent for the next 4 kms, crosses a creek twice, then reaches your destination at the Dunedin River. Cross over the river for a good lunch spot on the gravel bar or up on the flood plain behind. Be aware that the return trip will take you much longer than getting to the Dunedin River, due to the long ascent back to the Alaska Highway.



Photo by: Heather MacRae

Fresh Grizzly Bear track

Special Notes: This is a great trail for wildlife tracking. For most of its length you can see

incredible amounts of moose, sheep, elk, wolf and both black and grizzly bear tracks. Keep your eyes out late in the summer for a tasty wild strawberry treat as you're travelling up the first hill.

Summit Ridge



LONGNAME	Latitude	Longitude
Trail Head/ Parking	58° 39' 14.652" N	124° 37' 54.660" W
Viewpoint	58° 38' 18.769" N	124° 38' 36.481" W

Summit Ridge



- Length:** 4.5 kilometres round trip – allow 3 hours return
- Difficulty:** 3 – Moderate
A continual, but often gradual, uphill climb to your destination.
- Location:** Mile 372 (km 600) of the Alaska Highway
- Approach:** Leaving Fort Nelson, head 143 kms northwest along the Alaska Highway and enter Stone Mountain Provincial Park. Another 2 kms from the park entrance sign, you will find a large highway pullout to your right where you can park across the road from the small creek drainage that is the trailhead. If you reach the Summit Lake Campground you have gone too far.

Trail Description: The trail begins directly across the road from the pullout in the small creek drainage. Clamber up the drainage and look for the trail leading off to the right about 50 metres up. The trail will be leading you directly up the ridge and will eventually reach a crossroads of trails.

Continue straight on from here, through the intersection and up the hill in front of you. Due to the fact that you are entering the alpine, you may or may not be able to see the trail distinctly on the ground, as people tend to spread out at this point. Climb for about 1 km to reach a flat area with a small pond and a few trees. This is a good place to rest and seek some shade if needed. The top of the ridge is visible from here and continuing in a southwest direction uphill for just over another kilometre will get you to the top of the ridge where a large cairn marks your final destination.

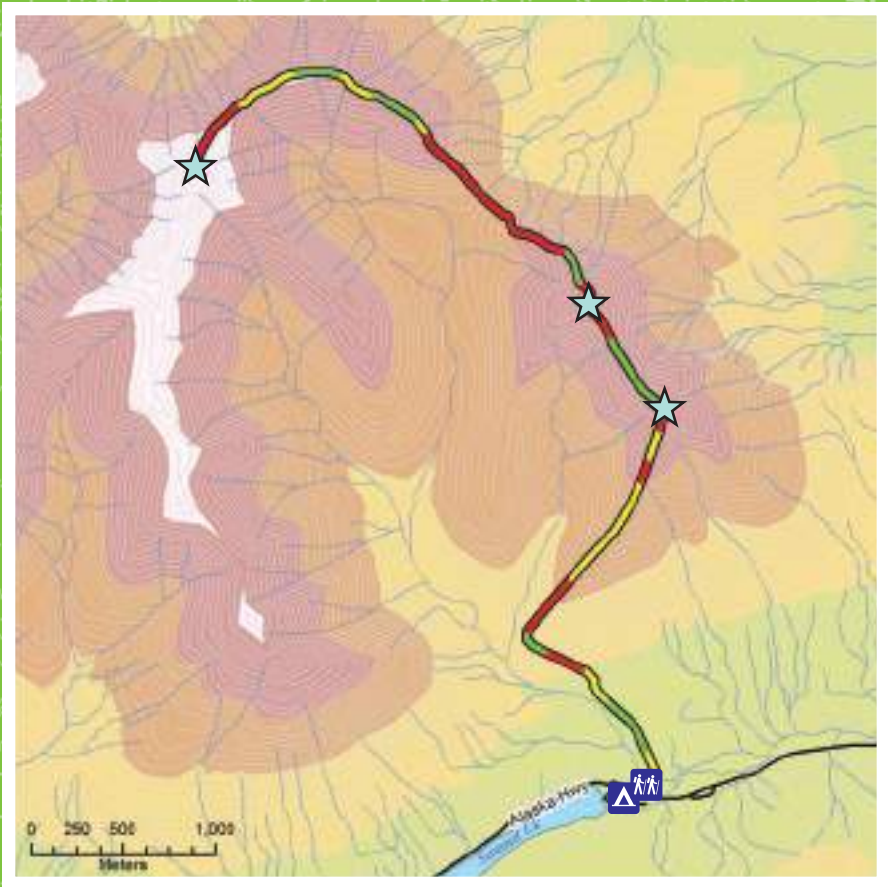


Summit Peak Panorama
Photo by: Mel Easy

At the top you have a full panoramic view. You can look down onto both the Flower Springs Trail (see page 38) and the Summit Tower Road (page 41) on one side, and down into a beautiful unnamed river valley to the other side.

Special Notes: Early in the summer, the south facing slopes of this route are a good place to find wildflowers like hairy lousewort and the occasional orchid. In late summer this is an excellent place for picking blueberries. Also keep an eye out for camouflaged rock ptarmigan found up above the tree line.

Summit Peak Trail (Mt. St. Paul)



Longname	Lat	Long
Camp Site/ Parking	58° 39' 6.053" N	124° 39' 4.398" W
Trail Head	58° 39' 7.396" N	124° 38' 57.334" W
Viewpoint	58° 40' 13.961" N	124° 38' 54.716" W
Viewpoint	58° 40' 31.930" N	124° 39' 20.820" W
Viewpoint	58° 40' 54.602" N	124° 41' 33.634" W

Summit Peak Trail (Mt. St. Paul)



Length: 6.7 kilometres round trip to upper viewpoint – allow 5 hrs (3.5 hrs up, 1.5 hrs down)
12.5 kilometres round trip to peak – allow 9 hrs (6.5 hrs up, 2.5 hrs down)

Difficulty: 4 - Moderately Difficult
Not a terribly long trail but with continual and often significant elevation gain.

Location: Mile 373 (km 600) of the Alaska Highway. Historic Mile 392.

Approach: Leaving Fort Nelson, head 144 kms north along the Alaska Highway and enter Stone Mountain Provincial Park. Another 2 kms from the park entrance sign you will find Summit Lake Campground. Park either on the left of the highway in the information pull-off found across from the campground

entrance or turn right off the highway into the campground and park in the day use area straight ahead.



Cairn on Summit Peak

Photo by: Mel Easy

Trail Description: The trail starts at the information pull-off across the highway where you will find a trailhead sign with a map of the route. After a creek crossing right near the start, the trail begins a 1 km ascent along an open spruce dominated ridge marked with yellow diamonds. After this warm up kilometre, the trail takes a turn to the right, leaves the trees, and enters the alpine where the trail really begins to climb. From here hikers will be following rock cairns

built of piled stones for approximately 2 kms until reaching a viewpoint .

Once at the first viewpoint, where most hikers end their trip, the views of Flower Springs Lake on the other side of the highway and the complete view of Summit Lake are spectacular. Also keep your eyes peeled for the camouflaged rock ptarmigan that frequent this trail, and stone sheep that use Mt. St. Paul as a breeding and rearing area.

The hardier and experienced hikers (there are now fewer rock cairns to follow) can choose to continue along the ridge to the next viewpoint which gives a more panoramic view and looks down into the Dunedin Valley behind the mountain. After this viewpoint there are no more rock cairns or a visible trail but the peak can be reached by continuing on along the ridge of the mountain.

Special Notes: Due to its location in the mountains, weather is almost always an unknown factor on this trail. It could be sunny at one moment, snowing another, and windy the next. Come prepared for all weather conditions. Also, after the first creek crossing, this trail provides no readily available sources of water for its entire length. Take more water than what you think you will need, as there is no shelter from the heat on a warm day once you are past the spruce ridge. Be prepared: temperatures can be up to 10° hotter or cooler on this trail than down at the lake and campground.



Rock Ptarmigan

Flower Springs Trail



LONGNAME	Latitude	Longitude
Campsite/ Parking	58° 39' 5.432" N	124° 39' 4.632" W
Trail Head	58° 39' 0.915" N	124° 38' 54.830" W
Picnic Table	58° 38' 6.292" N	124° 39' 51.873" W
Viewpoint	58° 36' 18.933" N	124° 41' 46.565" W

Flower Springs Trail



- Length:** Lake edge route: 13.6 kilometres round trip
- allow 5 hours return
Radio tower route: 10.2 kilometres round trip
- allow 4 hours return
- Difficulty:** 2 - Moderately Easy
There is some elevation gain using either access to the trailhead kiosk. Once past the kiosk and into the alpine, the elevation gain is minimal overall but there are quick changes in elevation going over 3 glacial moraines.
- Location:** Mile 373 (km 600) of the Alaska Highway. Historical Mile 392.
- Approach:** Leaving Fort Nelson, head 144 kms northwest along the Alaska Highway and enter Stone Mountain Provincial Park. Another 2 kms from the park entrance sign, turn left into Summit Lake Campground and park in the day-use area straight ahead.

There are actually two routes to the trailhead kiosk of Flower Springs trail, located south of the parking area. The first is to follow the trail leading along the lake edge. This route is longer, has greater elevation gain and losses, but is more scenic. The trail has become overgrown in places, so follow elevation where trail disappears, to connect with radio tower road beyond.

The second route is to follow the radio tower road found over the gravel berm at the end of the campground to the left of the parking area. This route is significantly faster and has a more gradual ascent to the trailhead kiosk.

Photo by: Jaylene Arnold



Flower Springs Lake

Trail Description: Flower Springs trail starts just behind the trailhead kiosk off the radio tower road. (Please sign in here on the BC Parks trail registration form. As there are no trees past this point, hikers will be following wooden stakes with

yellow diamonds attached to both sides.

The first kilometre of trail will take hikers across lowland areas where bog cranberries and early summer wildflowers enjoy the moist ground. The next 2 kms lead up and over a series of moraines left from retreating glaciers historically prominent in this area. After another kilometre your destination of Flower Springs Lake will become visible over the top of the hill. The trail leads down to the lake and its outflow creek.



Photo by: Jaylene Arnold

Summit Peak from Flower Springs Trail

Summit Tower Road



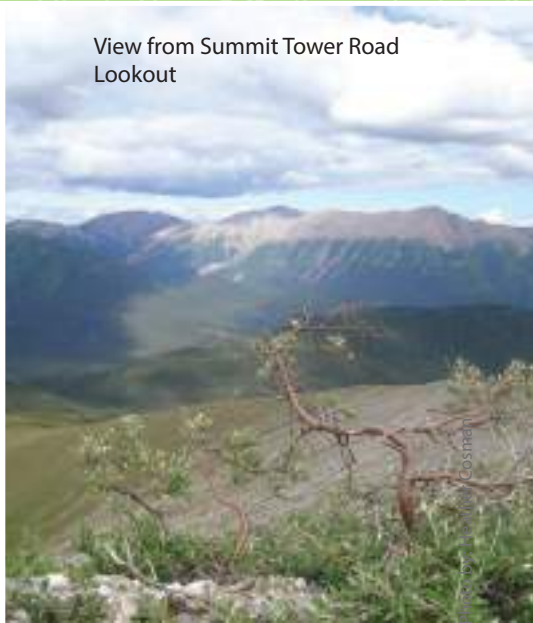
LONGNAME	Latitude	Longitude
Campsite/ Parking	58° 39' 5.432" N	124° 39' 4.632" W
Trail Head	58° 39' 5.056" N	124° 38' 53.971" W
Picnic Table	58° 38' 6.292" N	124° 39' 51.873" W
Viewpoint	58° 37' 52.510" N	124° 43' 12.331" W

Summit Tower Road



- Length:** 12 kilometres round trip – allow 4 hrs
- Difficulty:** 2 - Moderately Easy
An easy trail to follow as it was historically used as a motor vehicle route to the radio communications tower. Gradual but constant Elevation gain to the tower puts this trail into the moderately easy group instead of just easy
- Location:** Mile 373 (km 600) of the Alaska Highway. Historic Mile 392.
- Approach:** Leaving Fort Nelson, head 144 kms north along the Alaska Highway and enter Stone Mountain Provincial Park. Another 2 kms from the park entrance sign you will find Summit Lake Campground. Park either on the left of the highway in the information pull-off found across from the campground entrance or turn right off the highway into the campground and park in the day use area straight ahead.

View from Summit Tower Road
Lookout



Trail Description: This trail is easily followed for its entire length by following the old decommissioned road. At kilometre 1.5 of the trail you will pass a kiosk for the Flower Springs hiking trail (not suitable or open for mountain biking). Continue along the road past the kiosk. Good views of Summit Lake and the highway below will start becoming visible around kilometre 4. Two more kilometres will find you at your destination, with views of the McDonald Valley and a vista of the Northern Rocky Mountains.

Special Notes: This trail travels through some amazing alpine landscapes where the wildflowers come out in late June and carpet the valleys and Hillsides. Caribou and moose also make regular appearances on the rolling terrain, eating ground lichens and buds off low growing shrubs



Provincial Campground from Summit Lake

Photo by: Heather Cosman

Erosion Pillar Trail



LONGNAME	Lat	Long
Parking	58° 38' 42.683" N	124° 42' 33.933" W
Trail Head	58° 38' 43.048" N	124° 42' 39.805" W
Viewpoint	58° 38' 53.419" N	124° 42' 38.300" W

Erosion Pillar Trail



- Length:** 1 kilometre round trip
- allow 30 minutes return
- Difficulty:** 1 - Easy
A short, well marked trail with little elevation gain.
- Location:** Mile 376 (km 609) of the Alaska Highway
- Approach:** Leaving Fort Nelson, head 149 kms northwest along the Alaska Highway and enter Stone Mountain Provincial Park. Passing Summit Lake campground, travel another 5 kms to a small, round Lake), and pull off next to the lake on the left hand side of the road. The trail begins on the opposite side of the highway, marked by a rock cairn on the shoulder of the road.

Trail Description: The trail leads off from the rock cairn winding easily through the trees, and marked by yellow diamonds for a few hundred metres. A little further, the trail passes through a small clearing and then leads off up a short incline towards your destination at the base of a 30 ft erosion pillar. From up behind the pillar you can get good views of Mt. St George in the background.

Special Notes: This trail is a perfect length and difficulty for a stretch after that long day driving and will give you a quick glimpse of one of the many natural features just off the Alaska Highway.



Looking up at the Erosion Pillar

Wokkpash Trail

Wokkpash Trail Pocket Map

The Wokkpash Trail map supplement has been provided separately for those who do not wish to carry the entire guide with them.



The Wokkash Trail



Length: Total Length: 73 kilometres – allow 4-7 days for the loop
Road Portion: 19 kilometres
Trail Portion: 54 kilometres

Difficulty: 4 – Moderately Hard
Not a trail with a lot of gradient change, but long, with many creek crossings, one day will have a long steep uphill, and hikers must be fully self-sufficient.

Location: Mile 378 (km 612) Alaska Highway (McDonald trailhead) or Mile 382 (km 619) Alaska Highway (Churchill Mine Road trailhead)
*This depends on which direction you wish to do the trail.

Approach: For starting the trail from the McDonald trailhead: The trailhead can be found 151 kms west of Fort Nelson, inside Stone Mountain Provincial Park, about 11 kms past Summit Lake campground. Just before arriving at the parking area you will cross over a small bridge. The parking area is just past this to the left. At the back of the parking area you will find a BC Parks kiosk with trail information and a trail survey (please help Parks monitor trail use by filling out the survey information). The trail leaves the parking area from behind the kiosk heading south.

For starting the trail from the Churchill Mine Road trailhead: The trailhead can be found 157 kms west of Fort Nelson, inside Stone Mountain Provincial Park, about 11 kms past Summit Lake campground. Just before arriving at the turnoff you will pass a highway lodge and start looking for the blue highway sign indicating a motorized vehicle route to the left which is the Churchill Mine Road. Follow this road for 3 kilometres until you come down to McDonald Creek.

Once at the creek you will have to make the decision to either wade across or try to cross it by vehicle. Early summer and after high rains usually finds the creek too high to cross safely by vehicle especially later in the day. Either by vehicle or wading, try crossing the creek

Photo by: Heather MacRae



Example of a rock cairn

very early in the morning for a typically lower water level. If you decide to drive across make sure you have a 4x4 vehicle with a relatively high clearance as there are some larger boulders under the water.

Once across the creek, the road continues for 13 kilometres, passing over some washout sections that will again require a 4x4 vehicle, if driving. At kilometre 13 the road splits with the left fork leading to the Churchill trailhead (again please sign in here on the trail survey) in another 2.4 kilometres.

Trail Description: Description of the trail will start from the Churchill Mine Road trailhead and end at the McDonald Creek trailhead. This is the direction most people travel as it is often considered the easiest.

From the Churchill trailhead kiosk, the trail heads quickly down to the edge of Wokkpash Creek and then proceeds upstream on top of a bench that stays pretty level for 4.2 kilometres. At this point the trail turns away from the creek and starts heading steeply uphill for just under a kilometre. It will almost feel as if you are going in the wrong direction while climbing the hill but it is just a large switchback that will take you to a good viewpoint of the Wokkpash Valley.

Heading down from the other side of the viewpoint will bring you to your first alluvial fan crossing where the trail on the ground disappears and you will begin to follow rock cairns with a stick and flagging tape sticking out the top.

After passing over this alluvial fan you will be alternately up in the trees and down on the creek edge for the next 4.2 kilometres. You will then reach your next alluvial fan where there are two camping spots available if you choose to spend a night here. There is a small camp spot up in the trees that is suitable for maybe one tent but it is well secluded if the weather is inclement. If you require a larger site then there are plenty of flat areas down closer to the creek where several tents could be set up.

Continuing on will take you over the next alluvial fan - again following rock cairns. If you went down to the camp closer to the creek then you will need to angle uphill when crossing the alluvial fan as the trail re-enters the trees a little ways up the hillside.

Once into the trees, you will travel for another 1.8 kilometres before starting to have your first glimpse of the famed Wokkpash hoodoos.

Special Notes: This trail is a wonderful multi-day wilderness trip into some of the most spectacular scenery of the Northern Rocky Mountains. Hikers will find good fishing opportunities (Bull Trout, Dolly Varden) both in Wokkpash Lake and in many pools along Wokkpash Creek, and will probably see lots of wildlife including caribou, moose, bear and porcupine. Many types of wildflowers dot the landscape throughout the trip and bird watching opportunities are also quite good, with many birds of prey and songbird species to be heard and seen.

The “Cut” Trail



Longname	Lat	Long
Trail Head/ Parking	58° 38' 47.919" N	124° 43' 13.449" W
Viewpoint	58° 39' 3.373" N	124° 44' 2.445" W
Trail Head/ Parking	58° 39' 9.095" N	124° 45' 17.105" W

The "Cut" Trail



- Length:** 6 kilometres – allow 3 hours return
- Difficulty:** 2 – Moderately Easy
A short, gradual uphill climb on a very clearly defined route
- Location:** Mile 377 (km 610) of the Alaska Highway
- Approach:** The trail is found 150 kms northwest of Fort Nelson, inside Stone Mountain Provincial Park, 4 kms past Summit Lake campground. Look for an old road heading off to the right, where you can park in front of the ditch.

Trail Description: This trail is actually an old section of the Alaska Highway used before road crews cut a new road lower into the steep, bedrock hillside below. This section of the old highway will take you above "the cut" (an area of the new highway that had to be cut directly into the rock cliff) with a view down both directions of the highway and across the MacDonald Valley.

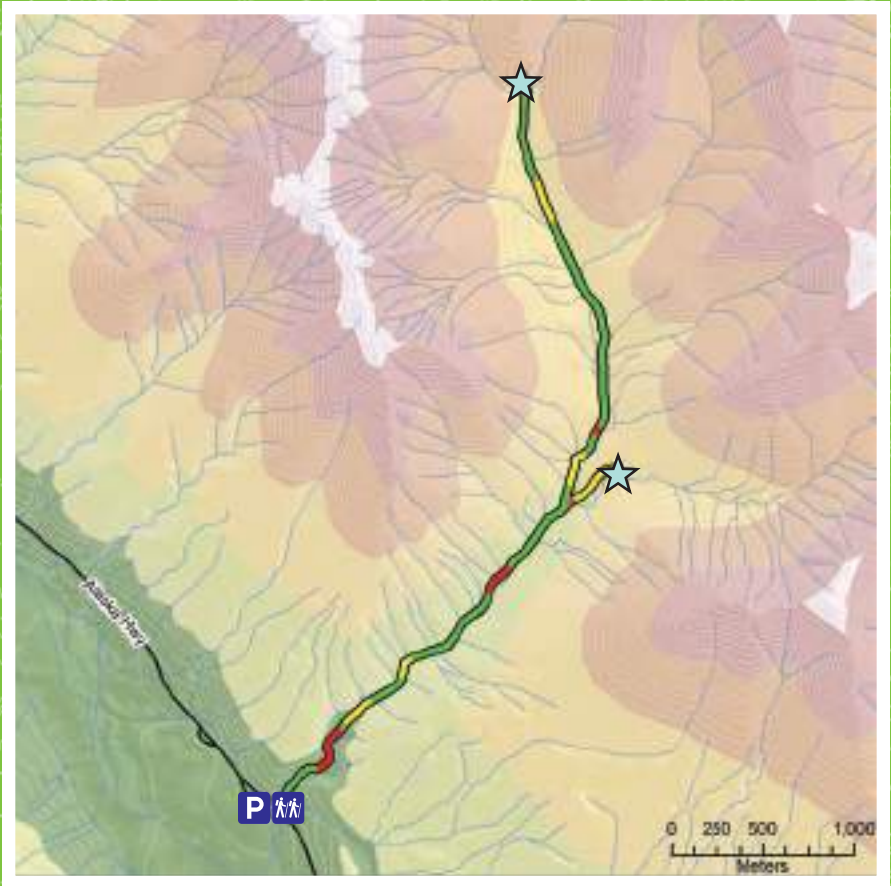


View of Alaska Highway from viewpoint

Leave the parking area, cross the ditch, and head northwest, directly up the old road for around 900 metres. Here on the left you will find an offshoot trail (100 metres) where all that is still visible on the ground are two old tire tracks. This short side trail will lead you to a viewpoint over the cut where stone sheep are often seen. Coming back down to the old highway proceed northwest for another 2 kms where you will shortly come out onto the current Alaska Highway again. There is a parking spot here too that an alternate vehicle can be left for return to the trailhead.

Special Notes: While up at the viewpoint overlooking the cut, keep an eye out for stone sheep on the opposite hillside where they can often be found resting or foraging. There is also a large number of caribou that frequent the area and their tracks can be found along the entire route.

Baba Canyon



Longname	Lat	Long
Trail Head	58° 39' 30.192" N	124° 45' 52.727" W
Parking	58° 39' 30.419" N	124° 45' 59.067" W
Viewpoint	58° 40' 31.293" N	124° 43' 59.649" W
Viewpoint	58° 41' 40.057" N	124° 44' 35.488" W

Baba Canyon



- Length:** 5.5 kilometres round trip to first viewpoint - allow 3 hrs return
11 kilometres round trip to second viewpoint
- allow 6 hrs return
- Difficulty:** 3 - Moderate
Fairly small elevation gain for the first part of the trail but lots of creek hopping required. Short, quick elevation gain to either viewpoint.
- Location:** Mile 378 (km 612) of the Alaska Highway
- Approach:** The trailhead is found 151 kms northwest of Fort Nelson, inside Stone Mountain Provincial Park, about 7.5 kms past Summit Lake campground. Just before arriving at the parking area you will cross over a small bridge. The parking area is just past this to the left. At the back of the parking area you will find a BC Parks kiosk with trail information. Cross over the highway to the left of this kiosk and enter the creek drainage on the other side. Wander down the road which was used to access an old quarry, past the rock with "BABA CANYON" painted on it, and find the trail starting out on the west side of the creek.



Photo by: Jaylene Arnold

Trail Description: The trail leads northeast from the highway, staying close to the creek edge and crossing it several times. Hikers will find the trail is only visible in sections. Because of the generally rocky terrain, the trail (a worn mark in the ground from past hikers) is only visible when it enters the trees or when there is some sort of ground cover. Following the creek for most of the canyon will naturally lead you to sections of visible trail.

For much of this canyon, hikers can generally just pick their own route by staying close to

Hiking Baba Canyon

the creek and following it upstream. Many small waterfalls and canyons, deep clear pools, and interesting rock formations can be discovered this way.

At about km 2 of the trail, the creek divides and splits to either side of a ridge. This is the best place to clamber up the hillside and turn back for a view of Baba Canyon and the expansive McDonald Creek drainage beyond that.

For those hikers looking for a longer excursion, take the left hand creek drainage, (the right creek ends fairly quickly in a steep drainage) continue along the creek, passing two other creeks coming in on your right, until you reach the final fork in the creek and clamber up this ridge to reach the second viewpoint. The trail continuing on past the fork in the creek is no longer marked or visible on the ground. Only more experienced hikers should venture past this point.

Special Notes: Late spring/early summer finds a diverse array of wildflowers in Baba Canyon and the observant hiker can even find the beautiful Ladyslipper Orchid. Also note that this creek is subject to daily water level changes during spring run-off, usually around the end of May and beginning of June, forcing hikers to wade across the creek several times to return to the trailhead.



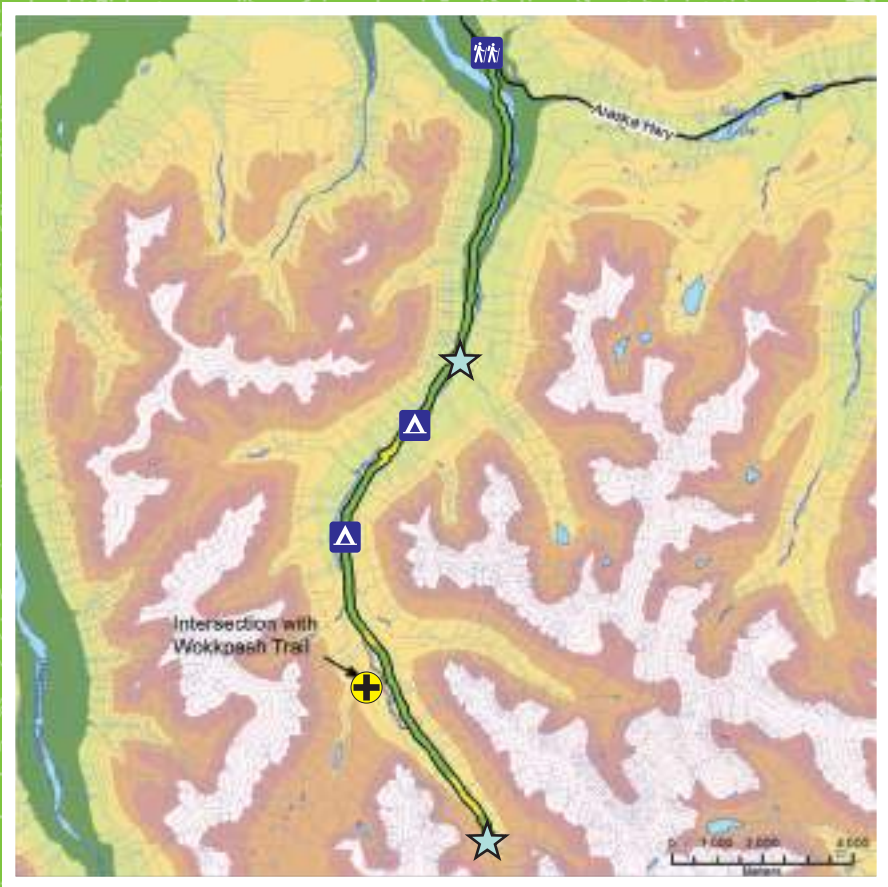
Lapland Rosebay



Alpine Hawksbeard

Photo by: Alison Starr

MacDonald Creek



Longname	Lat	Long
Trail Head/ Parking	58° 39' 30.782" N	124° 45' 59.341" W
Viewpoint	58° 35' 52.601" N	124° 46' 26.102" W
Camp Site	58° 35' 4.469" N	124° 47' 26.063" W
Camp Site	58° 33' 43.627" N	124° 48' 53.899" W
Intersection	58° 31' 59.222" N	124° 48' 25.727" W
Viewpoint	58° 30' 9.361" N	124° 45' 27.842" W

MacDonald Creek



Length: To end of creek drainage: 21 kilometres – allow 3-4 days return
*Any length of trail can be chosen by not travelling to the very end of the creek drainage.

Difficulty: 3 – Moderate
A fairly level trail throughout but with an almost continuous uphill gradient going up to the end of the creek drainage. A few short steep sections down to and up from creek crossings. Sections of this trail are up the creek drainage itself and are therefore on rocky, uneven terrain.

Location: Mile 378 (km 612) of the Alaska Highway

Approach: The trailhead can be found 152 kms northwest of Fort Nelson, inside Stone Mountain Provincial Park, about 7.5 kms past Summit Lake campground. Just before arriving at the parking area you will cross over a small bridge. The parking area is just past this to the left. At the back of the parking area you will find a BC Parks kiosk with trail information and a trail survey. (Please help Parks monitor trail use by filling out the survey information). The trail leaves the parking area from behind the kiosk heading south.

Trail Description: Just after leaving the parking area, the trail turns right down to the MacDonald Valley, quickly crossing the small creek flowing beside the trail. Once down in the valley the trail crosses the many tributaries of MacDonald Creek. There is no distinct trail at this point as you are going across the rocky ground to get to the other side. Keep heading upstream for about 3 kilometres on the west side of the creek where you will eventually find a small cairn and trail up the creek bank leading into the trees and out of the creek drainage.

Photo by: Heather MacRae



Wide outwash fan of the MacDonald Valley

The trail stays in the trees for a while on the west side of the creek, passing by an old burned area, several alluvial fans and eventually coming to a possible camping spot about 9 kilometres in. It is a little way off the river's edge but right on the trail.

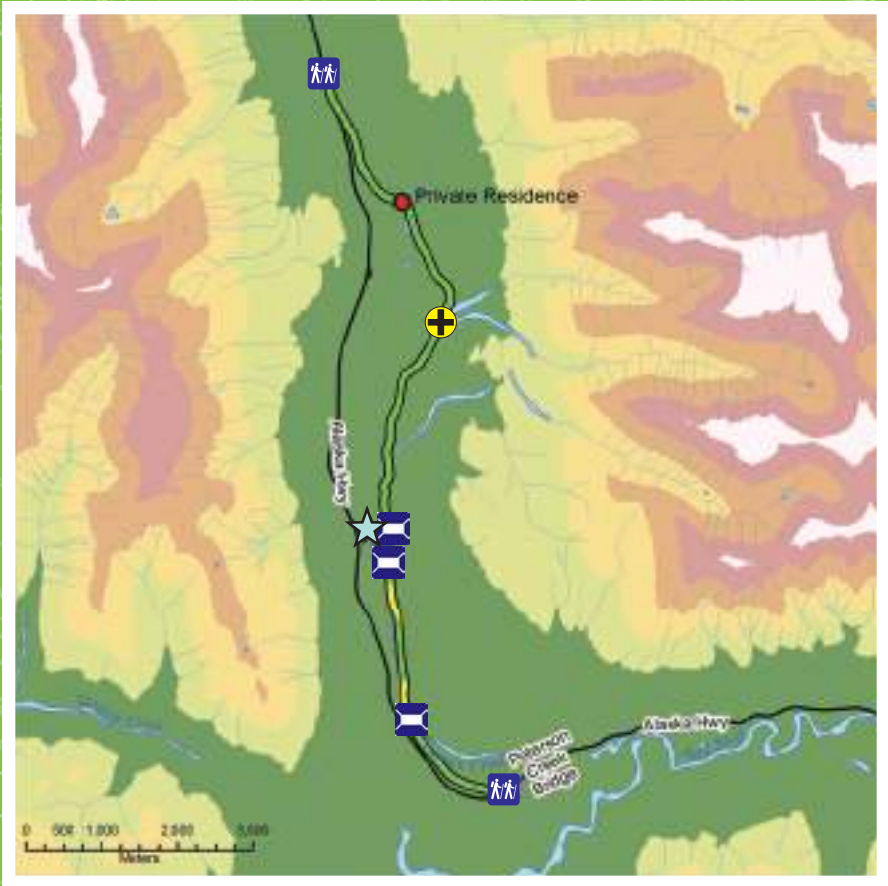
Continuing on from the campsite, the trail will soon lead you to another creek crossing and up onto a ridge on the east side of the creek. Still heading south, the trail will pull away from the creek a bit and pass through another possible camping spot. Just past here you will cross a different creek coming in from your left, climb up on top of another ridge, and follow this until coming down nearer MacDonald Creek again. Here at around kilometre 15 of the trail, you can look across MacDonald Creek and see the valley that leads into Wokkpash Lake to the west (see Wokkpash Trail page 47).

Past this point the trail starts to disappear but the open terrain and un-treed landscape make it easy to follow the valley to its end. Near the 20 kilometre mark of this valley the MacDonald Creek splits into two drainages and either can be taken. There are no further specific camping spots at this end of the valley as there are no trees for shelter. So be prepared for all conditions if you want to camp in this area or to make the return trip to the camping spot you passed on the way there.

Special Notes: This valley is an excellent place to spot large mammals like moose, caribou, Stone's sheep and mountain goat in good quantities. Keep an eye out for caribou down low in the creek bed and on the valley's lower banks, while the sheep and goats are usually found above the tree line on the more rocky slopes.

Due to this abundance of wildlife, MacDonald Creek is a popular place for hunters, generally on horseback, during the late summer and early fall, so be aware that hikers and horses may be sharing this trail.

Petersen Canyon



Longname	Lat	Long
Trail Head/ Parking	58° 51' 34.546" N	125° 44' 44.407" W
Viewpoint	58° 48' 20.481" N	125° 43' 51.148" W
Bridge	58° 48' 18.316" N	125° 43' 40.915" W
Bridge	58° 48' 9.811" N	125° 43' 36.806" W
Bridge	58° 47' 0.386" N	125° 43' 10.562" W
Intersection	58° 49' 51.560" N	125° 42' 59.461" W
House	58° 50' 41.043" N	125° 43' 36.164" W
Trail Head / Parking	58° 46' 33.218" N	125° 41' 46.623" W

Petersen Canyon



- Length:** 12 kilometres round trip - allow 5 hours return
- Difficulty:** 2 - Moderately Easy
This trail has only gradual elevation gain going north and is easy to follow.
- Location:** Mile 432 (km 695) of the Alaska Highway
- Approach:** Drive 240 kms northwest along the Alaska Highway from Fort Nelson, or 37 kms past the Muncho Lake Provincial Park entrance sign, to access the trailhead. Pull off the highway to the right onto a gravel road just past the "Sawtooth Mountains" viewpoint pullout. This is the Muskwa-Kechika Drogheda Lake Access Management Area (AMA) route and will pass by a private residence and an old gravel pit before ending at a road washout where the trail begins and motorized vehicles are no longer permitted. Park either at the gravel pit or on the edge of the washout.

Trail Description: This trail is actually an old section of the Alaska Highway that was decommissioned because of a few persistently reoccurring washouts, which you cross over just after beginning the trail. From there the old highway continues south, crossing over a couple of original bridges and passing by a small waterfall on the right. Continuing on finds you entering what is called Petersen Canyon, an area of around a kilometre where the river drops down from the side of the road and rock walls rise above it.



Photo by: Heather MacRae

Original Alaska Highway culvert exposed due to washouts

support girders are missing from underneath the bridge deck at the far end. If you do plan to cross, stay close to the right hand side railing, passing over it one

person at a time.

The road continuing on past the last bridge will lead you down to the Alaska Highway where a second vehicle could be parked if you do not wish to make the return trip back up to the trailhead. Be aware, though, that this bottom section of road is not a motorized vehicle route and is closed to all motorized traffic.

Special Notes: Take some time to look at the bridges as you cross over them. The design and construction of these are amazing considering their age. They were definitely meant to last. Also keep an eye out for the wooden culverts which were used in the original construction of the highway. Many are still in place and working while others are fully exposed because of washouts and you are able to admire their amazing design and longevity.



Red Rock Canyon



Longname	Lat	Long
Trail Head/ Parking	58° 55' 22.025" N	125° 46' 14.932" W
Viewpoint	58° 54' 21.043" N	125° 44' 40.912" W

Red Rock Canyon



- Length:** 6 kilometres round trip - allow 4 hours return
- Difficulty:** 3 - Moderate
There is no distinct trail in this canyon and you will have to hop the creek or wade through it to reach the waterfalls.
- Location:** Mile 436 (km 703) of the Alaska Highway
- Approach:** Drive 246 kms northwest along the Alaska Highway from Fort Nelson until entering Muncho Lake Provincial Park. Forty kms into the park you will find a creek running under the highway, across from a highway maintenance yard. This is 2 kms before reaching Muncho Lake, so if you see the lake you've gone too far. Pull off the road to the right and park in the flat area to the right of the creek.

Trail Description:

Red Rock Canyon is more a route than a trail, as there are no trail markers to follow. Simply following the creek bed upstream will get you to your destination. Head from the parking area upstream to the east for about 2 kilometres where the creek takes a sharp turn south (right) then continues for the next 2 kilometres. Shortly you will reach your destination of a small waterfall in what is termed Red Rock Canyon because of the old, erosion exposed, reddish rock.



Photo by: Heather MacRae

Old Alaska Highway Trail



LONGNAME	Latitude	Longitude
Parking	58° 56' 51.306" N	125° 46' 10.636" W
Trail Head	58° 56' 56.062" N	125° 45' 59.598" W
Viewpoint	58° 57' 10.037" N	125° 45' 48.978" W
Trail Head/ Parking	58° 57' 43.146" N	125° 46' 9.070" W

Old Alaska Highway Trail



- Length:** 4 kilometres round trip - allow 3 hours return
- Difficulty:** Old Alaska Highway Trail: 1 - Easy
Elevation gain off the alluvial fan but long and gradual.
Trail to the Viewpoint: 4 - Moderately Difficult
Short, steep elevation gain and scrambly parts on a loose scree slope.
- Location:** Mile 438 (km 705) of the Alaska Highway
- Approach:** The trailhead for the Old Alaska Highway Trail & Viewpoint can be found at Strawberry Flats campground in Muncho Lake Provincial Park, 249 kms northwest of Fort Nelson. The campground can be found halfway along Muncho Lake on the left side of the road. Park in the day use area and look for the trailhead sign near the highway. From the trailhead sign, the trail crosses and continues on the east side of the highway.

Trail Description: As mentioned, the trail starts out from Strawberry Flats campground then crosses the highway. On the east side of the highway the trail is marked with rock cairns crossing from the right side of the alluvial fan to the left. (Hikers should be careful on this section of the trail as it is the uneven rocky base of the alluvial fan.) On the far side a yellow tree marker shows where the old highway heads off the fan and is cut into the side slope of the hill. The trail continues along the old highway for 2 kilometres with minimal elevation gain or loss before turning a quick left and coming back down to the new highway. Another vehicle could be left at a highway pullout here for the return trip back to the campground or make the return trip along the trail.



Muncho Lake

A side trail up to a Muncho Lake viewpoint starts 2 km along the old Alaska Highway trail just before you round your first bend and come away from Strawberry Flats alluvial fan. A well-worn trail heads up the hill to the right from here for another 2 kilometres before getting quite steep for the last few hundred metres and reaching the top of a ridge with excellent views of the entire length of the lake.

Stone's Sheep Trail



LONGNAME	Latitude	Longitude
Trail Head/ Parking	58° 58' 53.976" N	125° 45' 52.992" W
Viewpoint	58° 58' 43.032" N	125° 43' 12.144" W

Stone's Sheep Trail



Length: Northern drainage: 4.2 kilometres return - allow 3 hours return
Southern drainage: 5.1 kilometres return - allow 3.5 hrs return

Difficulty: 2 - Moderately Easy
Both drainages offer gradual elevation gain to the end of the mapped trails on the previous page. Past the end of the mapped trails, the drainages becomes steeper, narrower, and more difficult to traverse.

Location: Mile 440 (km 707) of the Alaska Highway

Approach: The start of this trail can be found 253 kms northwest of Fort Nelson on the Alaska Highway in Muncho Lake Provincial Park. Two kms after passing Strawberry Flats campground at Muncho Lake, turn off the highway to the right into a pullout with interpretive signs and ample parking. The trail starts on the left hand side of the pullout facing the alluvial fan.



Trail Description: The trail starts out heading towards the man-made dyke used to channel the flood waters coming down the alluvial fan. Cross over the top of the dyke and look for the rock cairn on the far side of the fan. Pink flagging tape on a stick out of the top of the cairn marks your destination. Once across the alluvial fan you can see an old road heading up the side of the fan to an old highway construction camp where remains of buildings can still be found.

For a hike up the northern drainage, continue along the edge of this alluvial fan until you come to a drainage coming out on your left. Heading up this drainage will find you hiking the bed of the alluvial fan, over rough uneven ground so care should be taken past this point. The trail continues for another km to a small waterfall. At this point the slope and elevation gain becomes considerable.

To follow the southern drainage, keep to the right of the grassy area heading up the original drainage. Cross over the creek coming out of the northern drainage and onto the grassy area in front of you, keeping the creek to your right. Continue along this drainage for another 1.3 kms before it also starts getting steep and narrow.

Special Notes: Keep an eye out for Stone's Sheep, as the name of the trail suggests. They have a tendency to stay close to the steep walls of the southern drainage for easy escape.

Boulder Canyon



Longname	Lat	Long
Trail Head/ Parking	59° 5' 2.063" N	125° 48' 38.955" W
Viewpoint	59° 5' 17.219" N	125° 47' 42.819" W
Viewpoint	59° 5' 22.498" N	125° 46' 42.377" W

Boulder Canyon



- Length:** 4.6 kilometres round trip – allow 3 hours return
- Difficulty:** 2 – Moderately Easy.
Fairly small elevation gain but some of the ground is uneven and rocky.
- Location:** Mile 448 (km 726) of the Alaska Highway
- Approach:** The trailhead can be found 266 kms northwest of Fort Nelson, inside Muncho Lake Provincial Park, about 5 kms past the Muncho Lake Viewpoint. The good sized pullout / parking area can be found on the east side of the road and is distinguishable by large boulders outlining it.

Trail Description: The trail starts heading east up the alluvial fan on a road leading to an old quarry. In about 10 minutes you will cross over a berm created to contain the water coming out of the mountains, and take your first turn a tight valley. Follow the creek bed for several turns until you reach a small (4 ft) waterfall or rock wall (depending whether there is still water flowing in the creek). Here you will have to decide if you can climb over the rock (good foot and handholds) or backtrack a short ways and wander up the right side and walk along the top to get over.

Photo by: Berthold Baumann



Boulder Canyon

Carrying on, you'll shortly enter a very steep walled section of the creek bed. It'll lead you to a dead end with sheer, rock walls over 25 ft high. Backing out of this canyon, you're able to scramble up the right side again and pass over this section. A distinguishable trail is visible in the ground at this point and continues on for a short while before dropping back down into the creek bed.

It's possible to continue on past this point all the way until the creek bed splits in two or beyond. Be aware, that small waterfalls or rock walls are prominent along the way and you'll have to climb up or scramble around them to continue.

Special Notes: This trail is best done in the fall when the water levels are low or there is no water running in the valley at all. Don't be fooled by the fact that there is no water down at the highway level; there could still be water further up the creek bed disappearing into the ground before reaching the highway. Also be careful when clambering up side slopes in this valley. Much of the rock is loose and is easily dislodged. Proceed up side hills one at a time.

Mineral Licks Trail



Longname	Lat	Long
Trail Head/ Parking	59° 9' 39.010" N	125° 53' 41.254" W
Viewpoint	59° 9' 38.200" N	125° 53' 52.101" W
Viewpoint	59° 9' 33.100" N	125° 53' 53.042" W

Mineral Licks Trail



- Length:** 1.3 kilometre round trip – allow 45 minutes return
- Difficulty:** 2 – Moderately Easy
A downhill to the viewpoints and a longer gradual uphill back to the parking area.
- Location:** Mile 454 (km 731) of the Alaska Highway
- Approach:** The Mineral Licks trail is located in Muncho Lake Provincial Park, 275 kms northwest of Fort Nelson on the Alaska Highway and around 15 kms past the viewpoint at the north end of Muncho Lake. Parking for the trail is found down a short gravel road off the left of the highway going northbound. Keep an eye out for the hiking and viewpoint sign to indicate where you turn off the highway. The trail can be found starting behind the trailhead kiosk at the end of the parking lot.

Trail Description: As this trail is a loop, you can go either way from the trailhead sign in the parking area. The easiest, though, is to head towards the viewpoints to the left as it is the steeper section on the trail and is best done going downhill. The trail leads from the parking area and into the trees, meandering easily down to two viewpoints where you will see the Trout River and the white-ish river banks that are the mineral licks. The trail continues along the upper banks of the river then turns back around towards the parking lot. This section of the trail is longer but has a gentle slope throughout.

Special Notes: Keep an eye out for sheep and other wildlife while down at the river viewpoints, as they frequent the area to lick the minerals found in the soil. Visitors should also note that fencing is not complete along the tops of the cliffs so caution should be taken on wet days or if riding a mountain bike.

Photo by: Laurisha Bardall



Mineral Lick from Trail

Teeter Creek



Longname	Lat	Long
Trail Head	59° 27' 4.063" N	126° 14' 2.156" W
Viewpoint	59° 27' 16.524" N	126° 13' 41.152" W
End of Trail	59° 27' 33.132" N	126° 13' 34.161" W

Teeter Creek



- Length:** This is a very short hike at only 1.2 kilometres round trip and should take less than an hour to complete.
- Difficulty:** 1 - Easy
This trail has little to no elevation gain and is well defined.
- Location:** Mile 483 (km 777) of the Alaska Highway
- Approach:** Driving northwest along the Alaska Highway, proceed 322 kms from Fort Nelson and you will find the trailhead 8 kms past the entrance to Liard Hot Springs Provincial Park. Pull off the highway to the right, just before the Teeter Creek bridge, into a small turnaround/parking area on the edge of the creek.

Trail Description: The trail starts out passing through the left side of a small campsite and continues up the creek, staying close to its edge. Meandering through the trees for the next half a kilometre, the trail stays relatively flat for its entire length, ultimately reaching a bridge and water flow sampling station. Here, a small waterfall tumbles into a deep pool that, at the right time of the year, is good fishing for Grayling coming up from the Liard River below.

Any travel over and past the bridge is only recommended for more experienced hikers as there are steep cliffs with no barriers and no further trail markings. A well-worn path is visible on the edge of the creek for a couple more kilometres up-creek before simply fading out.

Special Notes: Keep an eye out for wild Wood Bison along the side of the highway here as they are often seen eating the roadside grasses or lazing in the summer sun. But please keep well away from them as they are unpredictable and very dangerous.

Photo Credit: Donald Pettit



Bison near Teeter Creek

Smith River Falls



Longname	Lat	Long
Trail Head/ Parking	59° 34' 4.538" N	126° 27' 42.611" W
Viewpoint	59° 34' 13.538" N	126° 27' 43.898" W
Viewpoint	59° 34' 20.403" N	126° 27' 42.115" W

Smith River Falls



Length: 1.4 kilometres round trip - allow 1 hour return

Difficulty: 2 - 5
At the time of publication of this guide (2012), the wooden staircase that once lead visitors from the parking area to the base of the falls remains absent having not been reconstructed since the severe Forest Wildfire that burned through the area in 2009.

Location: Access Road: Mile 495 (km 792) of the Alaska Highway. Historical Mile 514

Approach: Driving northwest along the Alaska Highway, drive 342 kms from Fort Nelson and you will find the access road only 28 kms past Liard River Hot Springs Provincial Park.

Trail Description: The trail is accessed by following a 2.4 kilometre gravel road off the Alaska Highway. This is a 2WD drive road but is not recommended for large RV's, as the turn-around space at the parking area will not accommodate the largest of these. The trail starts out from the far right corner of the parking area to the right of the outhouse. To get down to a large gravel bar at the bottom of the waterfall, follow the rudimentary path using care as the incline is very steep and follows the path of the former set of stairs.

Special Notes: If you do not wish to climb down the bank to get to the base of the waterfalls, there is a good view of the falls from the parking area itself. There is also good fishing for Dolly Varden in the pool at the bottom of the waterfall. See the BC Fishing Regulations for quotas and seasonality.

Photo by: Heather MacRae



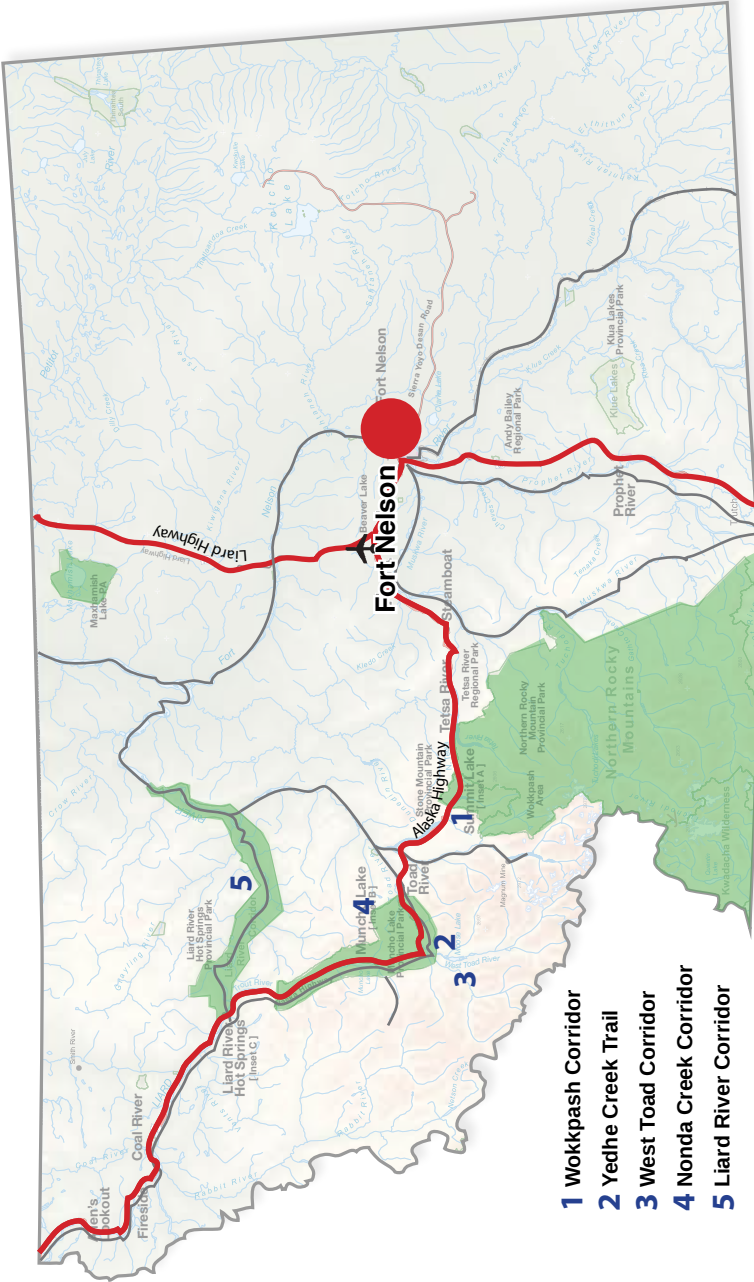
Smith River Falls from viewpoint

Motorized Routes



LEGEND

- Provincial Parks
- Waterways
- Major Highways
- Airport



- 1** Wokkpath Corridor
- 2** Yedhe Creek Trail
- 3** West Toad Corridor
- 4** Nonda Creek Corridor
- 5** Liard River Corridor

Wokkpash, Yedhe Creek Trail, West Toad, Nonda Creek & Liard River Corridors



Motorized Routes



Note: Motorized access to a special management area called the Muskwa-Kechika, which falls within the boundaries of the Northern Rockies, is restricted to specific designated routes called Access Management Areas (AMA routes). This is done to reduce and localize the effects of motorized use to already impacted, specific areas and to help maintain large tracts of undisturbed wildlife terrain. These are specifically designated routes for 4x4's, ATV's and snowmobiles that are also suitable for horseback riding, mountain biking or even hiking if you don't mind sharing the trail.

The numbers on the previous map page refer to the general location of 5 of these designated routes within the region that are good places to use motorized vehicles. Each route has different restrictions on it as some will allow full sized vehicles while others only allow vehicles under 500 kgs (ATV or snowmobile). Travel on these routes is also restricted to either within 10m or 400m (dependant on the trail) on each side of the route, for conservation purposes. Specific regulations will be outlined in the following trail description or can be found in detail on maps distributed by McElhanney in Fort St. John (250) 787-0356, or on the Muskwa-Kechika website: www.ilmb.gov.bc.ca/slrp/lrmp/fortstjohn/muskwa/maps/index.html

#1 - Wokkpash Corridor

Length: 54 kilometres to end of motorized route

Location: Mile 382 (km 619) of the Alaska Highway

Approach: The trailhead can be found 157 kms northwest of Fort Nelson, inside Stone Mountain Provincial Park, about 11 kms past Summit Lake campground. Just before arriving at the turnoff you will pass a highway lodge; start looking for the blue highway sign indicating a motorized vehicle route to the left, which is the Wokkpash Corridor (also known as the Churchill Mine Road).

Photo by: Randy McLean



Wokkpash Corridor

Description: This trail is approximately 54 kms long with several un-bridged creek crossings, one at McDonald Creek, one at Wokkpash Creek, and one at Racing River. For just over half of this route full sized, 4x4 vehicles are allowed

with the other half restricted to within 400m of each side of the trail. This route is also the access road for the Wokkpash hiking trail. The trailhead can be found by taking a left at the fork in the road before coming to Wokkpash Creek.

#2 – Yedhe Creek Trail

- Length:** 36 kilometres to the end of the motorized route
- Location:** Mile 424 (km 687) of the Alaska Highway. Historical Mile 443.
- Approach:** Turn left (south) off the Alaska Highway 225 kms northwest of Fort Nelson just in front of the Petersen Creek bridge, inside Muncho Lake Provincial Park. If you've passed a closed service station named "The Village" you've gone too far. Once you've turned off the highway, continue through the gravel pit until you reach a bridge spanning the Toad River (also known as the Davis Keyes bridge). This is the extent of normal 4x4 vehicle access. From this point on, the route is only open to ATV's and snowmobiles, and to within 400 m of each side of the trail.

Description: Pass over the bridge and take a sharp right to access the Yedhe Creek Trail which will continue for a few kms before reaching a fork. Taking the left trail will lead you along Yedhe Creek then across the creek and branch off along another valley to the south, ending up in the mountains. Taking the right trail at the fork will lead you down to and through the McDonald First Nations Reserve along the edge of Moose Lake. It will continue past the lake and eventually end at Belcher Creek.

#3 – West Toad Corridor



Photo by: Heather Cosman

Toad River

- Length:** 23 kilometres to the end of the motorized route
- Location:** Mile 425 (km 689) of the Alaska Highway
- Approach:** Turn left (south) off the highway 227 kms northwest of Fort Nelson just after the closed service station "The Village", inside Muncho Lake Provincial Park. The access road is quite difficult to find as it drops

off the side of the road very quickly and is generally not very visible. If the highway has started to turn north and you're climbing a hill, you've gone too far.

Description: This trail is a full sized 4x4 route for its entire length but travel to each side of the route is restricted to within 10 m. There'll be two main creek crossings, one near the beginning at Tandzie Creek and another across the West Toad. A few kilometres in you'll pass through an outfitter's lodge site on your way to the end of the route at Moose Lake.

#4 – Nonda Creek Corridor

Length: 25 kilometres to the end of the motorized route

Location: Mile 409 (km 658) of the Alaska Highway

Approach: Turn right off the highway less than 1 km past the Muncho Lake Provincial Park entrance sign about 201 kms northwest of Fort Nelson. Turn on the same road as where a blue sign points to "Stone Mountain Safaris".

Description: This route is a full sized 4x4 route for its entire length with travel restricted to within 400m of either side of the trail. Less than a km along the route take a left at the fork to drive up to the viewpoint at the Nonda radio tower. (The right fork leads to an outfitter's lodge and ranch.) The route will lead you past some low points running beside Nonda Creek then veer off and eventually come out above the tree line for a panoramic view of the mountains of the Sentinel Range.

Photo by: Tyler Mattheis



Nonda Creek Corridor

Photo by: Tyler Mattheis



Nonda Creek Corridor

#5 – Liard River Corridor

- Length:** 56 kilometres to the end of the motorized route
- Location:** Mile 478 (km 774) of the Alaska Highway
- Approach:** Turn right off the highway just after going over the Liard River suspension bridge and before reaching the Liard River Hotsprings Provincial Park. This is about 313 kms northwest of Fort Nelson on the Alaska Highway.

Description: Regular 4x4 vehicles can travel on the first part of this route but are restricted to within 10m on either side of the route. About 2 kms down the road you will find a fork in the road. Taking the right fork will lead you quickly down to where you can get a good view of the Liard River. The left fork leads you onto the main part of the trail where you will follow the Liard River downstream for around 13 kms. You will eventually reach an outfitter's lodge. From this point, motorized travel is restricted to ATV's or snowmobiles and within 400 m on either side of the trail. Continuing on you will pull away from the Liard River, cross over the Deer River, pass by Nordquist Lake, and reach the end of the motorized route in about another 6 kms.

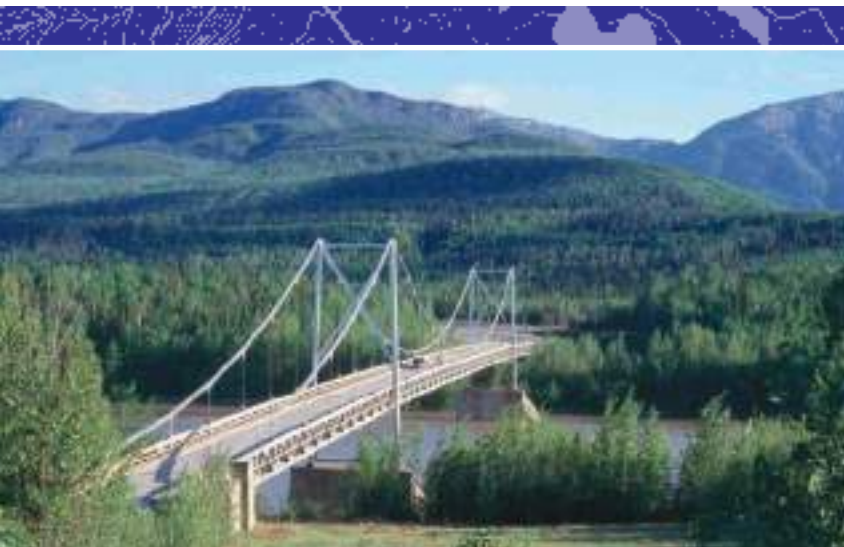
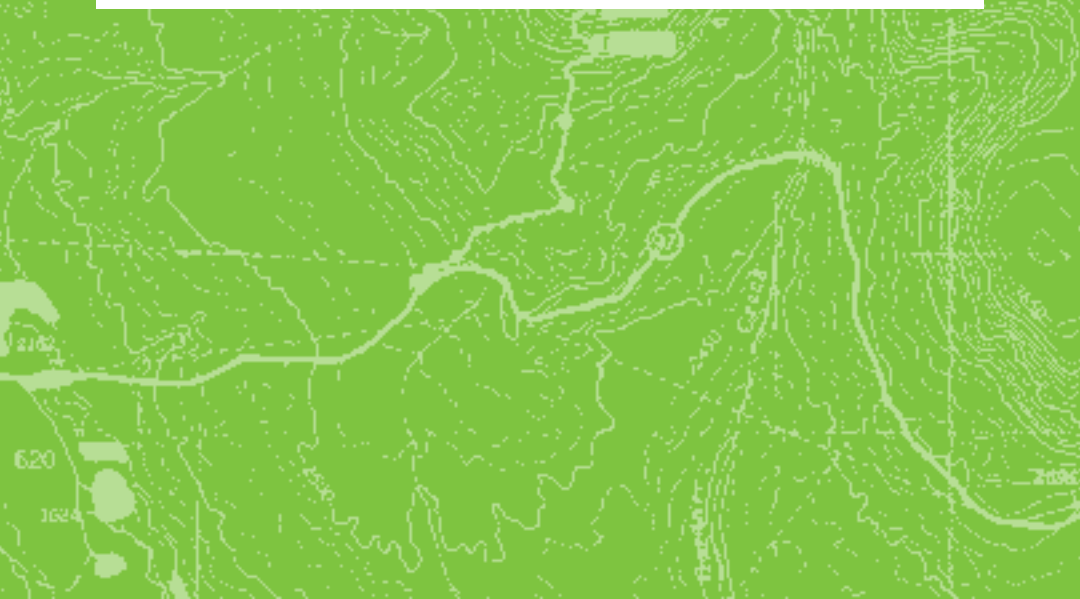


Photo by: Kathleen Smith

Liard River Bridge

Mould Creek Tower Road



Mould Creek Tower Road



- Length:** 15 kilometres round trip – allow 1 hour return by motorized vehicle – allow 4 hours return by mountain bike
- Difficulty:** 3 – Moderate (mountain bike)
Technically this is not a difficult ride but the constant uphill for 7 kilometres puts this road into the moderate category
- Location:** Mile 481 (km 778) Alaska Highway
- Approach:** This road leads north (right turn) off the Alaska Highway approximately 4 kms west of Liard River Hot Springs Provincial Park Campground. For those wanting to ATV, snowmobile or mountain bike, there is ample room off the side of the tower road for unloading vehicles or equipment.



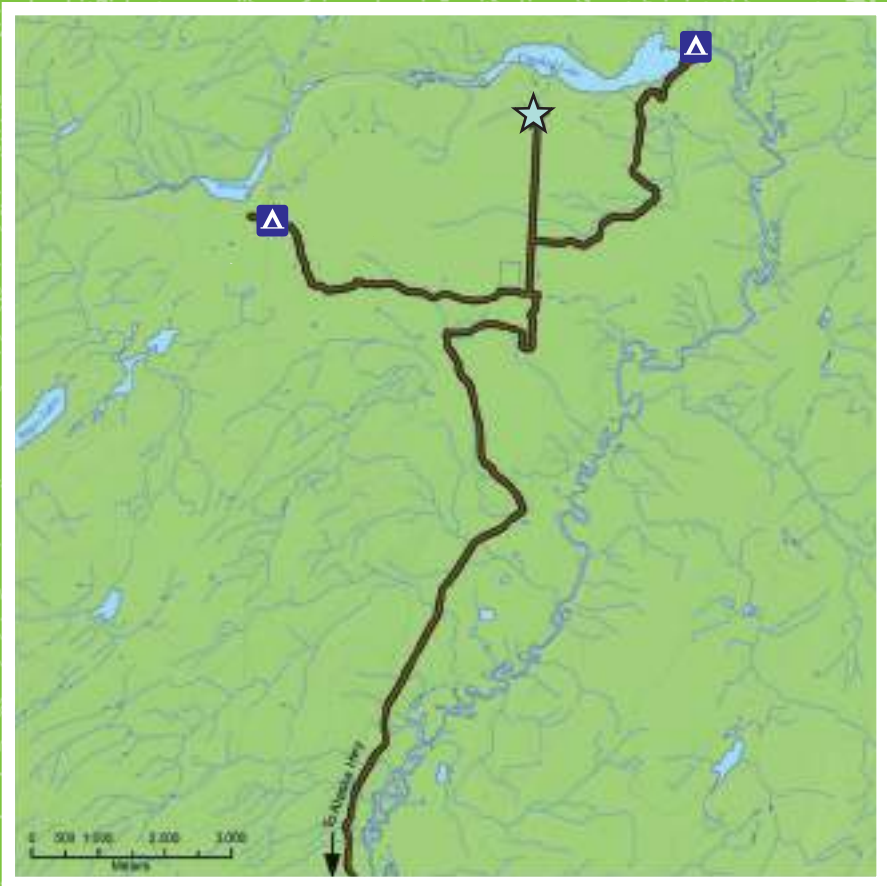
Photo by: Heather MacRae

Trail Description: This road is well maintained as it is used to access the radio tower at the top of the hill, which sits on the southernmost edge of the Liard Plateau. The road leads up for approximately 7 kms, mainly in the trees. As you reach the top, notice the change in forest type from aspen dominated down by the Liard River up to pine stands nearer the top of the plateau – possible evidence of a past fire or large scale disturbance of some kind. Once you reach the top you will be looking down on the Liard River Valley below you, the Liard Plateau to the north and the Muskwa Ranges to the south.

Special Notes: Keep an eye out for grouse, often found on this road at any time of the year. The occasional lynx has been spotted, too.

View of Liard River under fog from the Mould Creek tower

Smith River Road



Longname	Lat	Long
Camping	59° 53' 18.470" N	126° 29' 54.033" W
Camping	59° 54' 53.358" N	126° 23' 15.608" W
Viewpoint	59° 54' 17.237" N	126° 25' 45.514" W
Viewpoint	59° 28' 5.279" N	126° 8' 35.071" W
Camping	59° 25' 33.826" N	126° 6' 7.035" W

Smith River Road



Length: 42 kilometres to the Smith River Airport
5 kilometres to West Lake or to Crooked Lake from the Airport

**Due to the length of the road and that it crosses over several map sheets, the map (Reference #94 M/16) on the previous page shows only a section that portrays your destination. The road between the highway turnoff and the point shown on the map has no side roads, major bends, or forks so it is a relatively unnecessary section of the route to show, given the space limitations in this guide.*

Difficulty: N/A

Location: Mile 500 (km 810) Alaska Highway

Approach: This road leads north (right turn) off the Alaska Highway approximately 36 kms west of Liard River Hot Springs Provincial Park Campground. For those wanting to ATV or snowmobile, there is ample room just off the highway on the side of the Smith River road for offloading vehicles.



Photo by: JF Bergeron/Enviro Foto

Trail Description: This road is open to all motorized vehicles as it is an old Forest Service Road that is no longer active. As such, the road is in relatively good condition and as of 2003, was fully accessible by all types of transportation. As this road is no longer maintained, its condition may be uncertain, but it is fairly safe to say it will continue to be accessible for at least ATV's and snowmobiles, barring large scale slumping of the road or sizable trees falling over it.

Once off the Alaska Highway, the Smith River Road will lead you relatively north for just over 40 kms. Travelling the first half of the road, you can find several viewpoints overlooking the Smith River and some areas where you can

access the river for fishing. Continuing, you will eventually reach a small bridge going over Hutchison Creek leaving only about 10 kms to the Military Reserve boundary. Two kms further you will find a side road taking off to the right that leads to a small lake and the remains of a small cabin. Another 4.5 kms along the road you will notice it opening up and becoming very flat and smooth. This is the start of the old airport runway used by the US Military from the 1940's to 70's.

Drive another ½ km and you will find the West Lake road taking off to the right. This 5 km road is starting to get a little grown in and is quite narrow in places for larger trucks. It can also be fairly steep and slippery leading down to the lake, with no place to turn around. Once at the bottom of the road you will find a small decommissioned Forest Service campsite on the edge of the lake with an outhouse, picnic table, and fire ring.

The access road to Crooked Lake is only another 700 metres or so past the West Lake road back on the airport runway. This road is even more grown over, rough and narrow than the West Lake road but still drivable. At the end of this 5 km road is another small campsite but with no facilities.

Continuing northward along the airstrip, you will enter the trees again for a short distance before reaching the end of the road at a viewpoint of Crooked Lake and the valley beyond.

Special Notes: Take note around 14 kms along the Smith River Road where you will be passing through an area with a magnificent stand of mature white spruce. Just west of here is a small protected area because it is one of the few remaining sections of spruce forest left in the northeast that has never been disturbed by fire.

The Smith River Road leads to what was a United States military base from the 1940's to the 70's. It was originally constructed because it was needed as a stop for military aircraft that couldn't make the long journey between Fort Nelson and Whitehorse without refuelling. A few years back the old buildings and structures were knocked down and the area cleaned up for safety's sake, but there is still some stuff to poke around and look at.

Both West and Crooked Lakes offer good fishing for Jackfish (especially if you get a boat or canoe down to them) and good bird watching opportunities with ducks, eagles, loons, and osprey all having been sighted there.

"A Thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community."

- Aldo Leopold

LEAVE NO TRACES – OUTDOOR ETHICS

Please follow a few simple principles to help us preserve the generally pristine wilderness that we are still blessed to have in the Northern Rockies.

- Pack it in, pack it out. If you can carry it into the wilderness there's no reason you can't carry it out – in fact, carry out more garbage if you find some while hiking.
- Dispose of human waste appropriately. Bury it about 15 cms deep and choose a place at least 30 m from any water source.
- Make camp away from creek or lake edges to protect these easily damaged areas. Camp on durable surfaces preferably where a camp has already been impacted. Avoid areas that are starting to show impacts as they may be able to repair themselves if left unused. Do not scar campsites with trenches, or trample vegetation to put down a tent.
- Use stoves for cooking in alpine areas, Campfires cause irreparable damage to alpine vegetation. Outside of alpine areas, use established campfire rings and collect only small, downed, hand gathered wood for burning. Do not damage live trees.
- Use biodegradable soap and wash all equipment away from water sources, not in them. Scatter soapy water away from lakes or streams.
- Avoid wildlife nesting, rearing, mating, or feeding areas. Observe only from a distance and control your pets at all times.



Photo by: Peter Goetz

"But in every walk with Nature one receives far more than he seeks."

- John Muir

Northern Lights in Fort Nelson

For this second edition, a big thank you goes out to those who took the time to brave the elements, experience our incredible back yard, and pack along a GPS and camera to capture the memorable bits.

Mel Easy • Allan Silver • Mark Dyer &
the rest of the MFLNRO NIFAC team

Michelle MacElheren | Jaylene Arnold & Greg MacIver
Paul Coupe | Ross & Jennifer Coupe | Patrick Hinds
Wallace Li & Corey Weightman

This Guide in its second edition would not be possible without the efforts and dedication of Heather MacRae in creating the Northern Rockies Hiking & Motorized Trail Guide: From Mild to Wild - First Edition.



NOTES

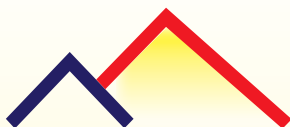


For more information contact:

Tourism Northern Rockies
5319 - 50th Avenue South
Bag 399, Fort Nelson, British Columbia
Canada V0C 1R0

Tel: 250 774 2541 Fax: 250 774 6794
Email: tourism@northernrockies.org
www.TourismNorthernRockies.ca

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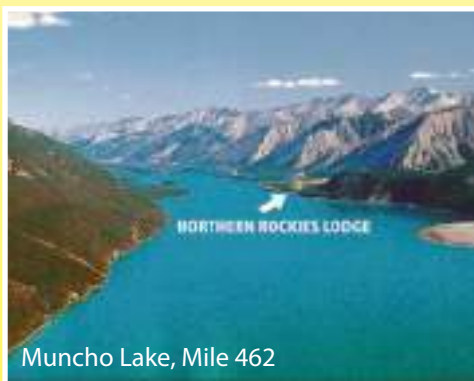


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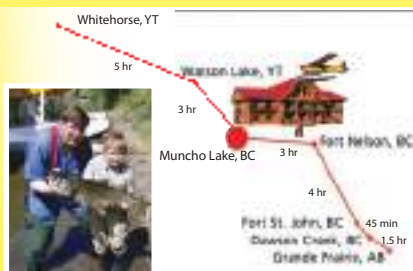
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